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Madame secretary
Secretary of State Madeleine Albright is given the oath of office by Vice President Al Gore at the Oval Office yesterday, as President Bill Clinton and Albright's daughters (left to right) Alice, Anne and Katy look on. Story, Page 2 (AP)

PM denies 'Bar-On for Hebron' deal

By SARAH HONIG

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu last night emphatically denied that Shas leader MK Aryeh Deri had supported the appointment of Roni Bar-On as attorney-general and offered Shas's support for the Hebron agreement in return for a plea-bargain deal.

Channel 1's Ayala Hasson, however, last night pressed on with the report she broke Wednesday night, though she offered no new evidence to back her allegations.

In an interview to Channel 1, Netanyahu stated that, "Deri never proposed or recommended Bar-On in any manner whatsoever. He did not recommend him or press for his appointment. These bizarre reports are out and out lies.

"There was no conspiracy and this is an attempt at libel... This is entirely baseless, absolute gibberish. I am astounded that the television should publicize such nonsense. A little more responsibility and professionalism is warranted."

Netanyahu also took a swipe at the rest of the country's press: "We have a free press in only relative terms. It is run by political opponents. Channel 1 opposed me before the elections and after the elections, and it is hard for them to adjust to the results."

Channel 1 opened its evening news magazine with the assertion that Deri is considering resigning from politics and that he has told Shas mentor Rabbi Ovadia Yosef he has had enough and asked for his permission to quit. He is to make an announcement about his future on Sunday. Yosef reportedly gave him unstinting support.

Deri could not be reached for comment, but two Shas sources said they do not believe he intends to quit.

Hasson sought to back her story yesterday with a photo of some of the main protagonists gathered around a table. Prime Minister's Office Director-General Avigdor Lieberman was shown conversing with Bar-On; in a second snapshot Deri appears with Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert, who, Hasson alleged, was in on the deal. The photos, however, were taken at a private wedding celebration this Tuesday, well after the entire affair was over and after Bar-On had already resigned his short-lived appointment.

Hasson also gave a rundown of events which she submitted as proof of her allegations:

• On January 4, Netanyahu met with several attorneys close to him – David Shimron, Yitzhak Molcho, and Dan Avi-Yitzhak – all of whom opposed the Bar-On appointment.

• The next day, Deri expressed support for the Hebron agreement. Shortly thereafter he heard that Avi-Yitzhak, his own lawyer, was likely to be appointed attorney-general. Furious, Deri then threatened to bring down the government.

• On January 6, Avi-Yitzhak, Lieberman, and Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi met with Netanyahu. Hasson did not explain how this meeting supports her thesis.

Hanegbi says the January 6 meeting "was geared to convince Avi- Yitzhak, then the leading can-

Continued on Page 20

Kabariti letter to PM calls for renewed dialogue

By DAVID MAKOVSKY

Jordan's Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti sent a letter to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Foreign Minister David Levy yesterday, calling for a renewal of the dialogue between the two countries in light of the Hebron accord.

The move ended the strain that has cast a shadow over the relationship during the last several months. The letter was delivered personally to Netanyahu and Levy by Jordan's ambassador Omar Rifai.

Relations between the two countries have been chilly ever since Israel opened the Western Wall Tunnel exit in September.

The first sign of rapprochement was evident last week when Jordan's King Hussein stopped in Tel Aviv after visiting Gaza to broker a compromise that helped seal an accord on a Hebron pullback and further IDF pullbacks in the West Bank.

Officials in Jerusalem suggest the challenge for Netanyahu and Hussein would be to revive the close personal relationship which would help revive the bilateral relationship between the two states, which has not been the same since Yitzhak Rabin's death.

Hussein, who revered Rabin for being a clear-eyed realist about moderate and radical forces in the region, did not enjoy the same close relationship with Rabin's successor, Shimon Peres.

The Netanyahu-Hussein personal links suffered a key setback after Hussein blamed the prime minister for an inconclusive end to a White House summit, which occurred in the aftermath of the tunnel incident. At the time,

Continued on Page 20

Swiss agree to Holocaust memorial fund

ZURICH (Reuter) – Swiss banks and the government, under pressure from world Jewish groups, agreed yesterday to create a Holocaust memorial fund as a goodwill gesture to critics of the neutral country's wartime financial role.

Special Ambassador Thomas Borer, the government's top official for the issue, announced the plan after talks with senior executives of Swiss banks, the central bank, insurance companies and other businesses. Borer told reporters that details remained to be worked out and no amount of money had been fixed for the fund, the idea of which had been resisted by Berne and the banks for months.

"We certainly hope that this [fund] will be understood as a sign of our goodwill," Borer said, referring to demands from the World Jewish Congress and other critics that Switzerland make a gesture of remorse for profiting from World War II.

"All the major banks support this idea, as well as other companies," Borer said.

"We did not talk about an amount. It would be premature to bring numbers into play," he added.

In New York, a spokesman for the World Jewish Congress welcomed the announcement and said the group "pledged to work with the Swiss authorities to set up an equitable mechanism and process for this fund." One of the top Swiss bankers, Credit Suisse Group chairman Rainer Gut, had called on Wednesday for a

Continued on Page 20

Burg receives death threat from Switzerland, Page 22

Opposition calls for criminal probe into Bar-On affair

By MICHAL YUDELMAN

The political system was in turmoil yesterday over what politicians dubbed "Bibi-gate: the deal," which led to the appointment of Roni Bar-On as attorney-general, according to a Channel 1 report.

Channel 1's crime reporter Ayala Hasson reported that Deri had conditioned Shas's support for the Hebron agreement on Bar-On's receiving the post after Bar-On promised Deri a convenient plea bargain in his trial.

Politicians and legal commentators described the alleged affair as smacking of mafia tactics and organized crime, calling for a police or state inquiry commission into the alleged involvement of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, his office director-general Avigdor Lieberman, Deri and others.

Meretz, the Movement for Quality of Government and the Amitai Association urged Acting Attorney-General Edna Arbel to open a criminal investigation.

Police and Arbel are to consider complaints against Bar-On's appointment on Sunday. Arbel will be asked to decide in the coming days whether to instruct police to open an investigation.

Labor's executive yesterday demanded forming a state inquiry commission to probe the Bar-On affair. Labor Secretary-General Nissim Zvilli said that "if the report is true, then it's the worst case of trying to influence the justice system in exchange for a political price which ever occurred in this country. This goes way beyond a political or partisan fight. For our future and the future of the state, the processes which led to this abortive appointment must be investigated."

Labor MK Haggai Merom said that if the affair is true, "then the prime minister was involved in a

Continued on Page 20

'Post' readers rally to help center for the blind

By DAVID BUDGE

Kindhearted *Jerusalem Post* readers have rallied to the aid of a Safed center for the blind, which was left without even the sound of music after thieves broke into the premises and stole all the musical instruments.

Lillian Cohen, a senior volunteer helper at the Center for the Advancement of the Blind in the Galilee city's southern quarter, said they had received many offers of assistance following the publication of the story in the *Post*, including a call from the British Embassy.

An official at the embassy said British Ambassador David Manning had "been struck by the story and was hoping that he may be able to help in some way." Staff of the Ramat Hasharon Diesenhaus travel agency have pledged NIS 10,000 to the center, which provides help and training to hundreds of blind youngsters and adults.

"I was so moved by the story in the *Post* that I brought it to the attention of the staff," said branch manager Terry Kessel.

"They immediately decided to forgo the annual excursion and instead donate the money it would cost for the trip – around NIS 10,000 – to the center for the advancement of the blind in Safed," said Kessel.

"We contacted people at the center to make the necessary arrangements and we will remain in touch and help them as much as we can," he said.

The thieves struck on January 12, breaking into the center and stealing all the musical instruments in the building, as well as amplifiers and stereo equipment, in what police described as a heartless crime.

They also took kettles, irons, and cooking utensiles used to help teach the blind how to cope with daily chores in their own homes. They left staff and students with nowhere to sit after removing all the furniture they could, including sofas, armchairs, tables, and chairs.

For the students in particular, the loss of the musical equipment, used for therapy as well as entertainment, was a bitter blow.

"The center without music is a sad place," said 19-year-old Yoni Bedder from Arad, who has been a student at the center for 10 years. He learned to play on an organ at the center and developed a love for music.

Bedder, who is completely blind, recently won a scholarship to the prestigious Berkeley School

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Albright may reshuffle peace process team

By HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON – Madeleine Albright became the first woman to assume the position of US secretary of state upon taking the oath of office yesterday.

She said afterward that while American leadership is respected around the world, the US must not become "complacent or timid or unwilling to look beyond our borders."

"We must not shy from the mantle of leadership nor hesitate to defend our interests nor fail in our commitments nor diverge from the principles that have defined, elevated and sustained our nation for more than 200 years," she said.

William Cohen, whose nomination, like Albright's, passed the Senate by a 99-0 vote Wednesday, is to take office today as secretary of defense.

Having succeeded Warren Christopher, who retired on Monday, Albright will now likely oversee a minor reshuffling of the US's peace process team.

Special coordinator Dennis Ross will stay, but his deputy Aaron Miller may move over to the White House's National Security Council to run Middle East affairs, or to another position in the State Department, a senior US official said.

Ambassador to Israel Martin Indyk has been mentioned as a candidate to succeed the retiring Robert Pelletreau as head of the Department's bureau of Near East affairs. Indyk's successor at the NSC, Mark Parris, is almost sure to leave the peace process team, perhaps to become ambassador to Turkey.

The official said that whatever happens, Ross, Indyk and Miller will remain intimately involved as peace process strategists.

It was fitting that minutes after assuming office, Albright joined Clinton for his first diplomatic encounter of his second term – with new UN secretary-general Kofi Annan. In her last few months as US envoy to the UN, Albright had helped depose Annan's predecessor Boutros Boutros-Ghali because neither the administration nor Congress were convinced he was the man to slash the organization's bloated bureaucracy.

Following the meeting, Clinton pledged to work out a formula with Congress for paying off the US's more than $1 billion in past dues.

Annan, for his part, told reporters that he had committed to Clinton to "pursue reforms" at the UN.

"If we do not change, we may lose our relevance," Annan said.

But following the swearing-in ceremony, Senate Foreign Relations Committee chairman Jesse Helms said he remains opposed to paying the US's debt to the UN until other countries pay their fair share. He said he would hold hearings on the matter.

In taking the oath in the Oval Office, Albright said the US must "formulate and finance a world-class diplomacy to complement our world-class military" – an echo of her call at her confirmation hearing two weeks ago for Congress to provide funds for the proper conduct of American diplomacy.

Clinton thanked the Senate for its swift approval of Albright's nomination and said the body had demonstrated its willingness to work with him in a bipartisan fashion.

Albright was sworn in just after noon by Vice President Al Gore in a short Oval Office ceremony attended by her three daughters, administration officials, Helms and Albright's friend Barbara Mikulski, a Senator from Maryland.

"This is a time of great hope and opportunity. If we are going to realize its promise, we must recognize that our global leadership is essential," Clinton said. "Madeleine Albright has the strength and wisdom to help ensure that America remains the indispensable nation." Referring to her family's escape from Czechoslovakia, Clinton said the story is "the best of America's story."

"As our UN ambassador these last four years, she has stood unflinchingly for America's interests and values. Now, as our secretary of state, she will help lead the effort to build a world where America makes the most of its partnerships with friends and allies around the world, where America leads the fight for a world that is safer from weapons of terror and mass destruction."

Britain pledges aid to Hebron

By Jerusalem Post Staff

Britain yesterday became the first country to pledge substantial aid to Hebron following last week's concluded agreement when Overseas Development Minister Lady Linda Chalker promised $670,000 to renovate rainwater collection and the sewage system in the Old City.

The area is under Israeli security control and Palestinian administrative authority. PA Chairman Yasser Arafat was to meet with Chalker yesterday evening and is expected to fly by helicopter to Hebron again today, weather permitting, his office said.

"Over the last year and this we expect to have spent bilaterally, through UNRWA and the European Union 42 million pounds," Chalker said.

Chalker, who made the pledge when visiting Planning Minister Nabil Shaath in Gaza said, "Britain has close and historic ties with this region. It is right that we do all we can to alleviate poverty and help the peace process. Our development assistance is a tangible sign of Britain's commitment to this process and of our faith in its future."

British Prime Minister John Major was the first foreign prime minister to visit Gaza after it gained autonomy.

Man killed, wife hurt in crash

An Eilat man was killed and his wife moderately injured yesterday when their car collided with a truck on the Arava highway.

The accident occurred at about 7 p.m. when the man's car suddenly swerved out of its lane and crashed into the oncoming truck. The injured woman was taken to Eilat's Josephthal Hospital. *Itim*



Airport reunion

Shuki Samana, third from left, greets (from left) Avi Biton, his brother David, and Amor Shimon last night after they landed at Ben-Gurion Airport following their deportation from Cyprus. The three were jailed two months ago for fraud and a bungled escape attempt. Samana, who was released earlier, had been jailed for aiding their escape. (Ilan Ossendryver/Israel Sun).

Hizbullah head: No Lebanon info on Ron Arad

By DAVID RUDGE

Hizbullah spiritual leader Sheikh Mohammed Hussein Fadlallah maintained yesterday that nobody in Lebanon was aware of the whereabouts of missing IAF navigator Ron Arad.

Fadlallah, in an interview with the Lebanese newspaper *Al-Liwa*, was asked about recent German-sponsored talks over the missing airman and why they had apparently stopped.

"As far as I know, there is nobody in Lebanon who knows where Arad is and that is the problem," Fadlallah was quoted as saying.

"If anybody knew where that man is, our young men who are being held prisoner and who are much more precious than him would have been back in their homes by now," Fadlallah was quoted as saying.

In an unrelated matter, there were reports that Israel had recently raised the salaries of soldiers serving in the South Lebanese Army, and supplied them with improved equipment.

According to Channel 2, SLA soldiers are now receiving around $350 a month for those who serve in front line positions. The pay rises to $650 for senior officers.

The SLA troops, according to the report, recently conducted a live-fire exercise in the zone which was watched by IDF officers.

They described the capabilities displayed by the soldiers as very professional.

IN THE NEWS

Attorney-general for sale?

By MICHAL YUDELMAN

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu appointed Roni Bar-On as attorney-general as part of a deal in which Shas MK Aryeh Deri would support the Hebron agreement, in exchange for a plea bargain in Deri's trial, which would enable Deri to continue his political career. This report on Wednesday night by television's Channel 1's crime reporter, Ayala Hasson, dropped a bombshell into the political arena.

Hasson yesterday added details to the report, noting that the initiative to appoint Bar-On came from the prime minister's bureau, rather than from Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi as was previously believed.

According to Hasson, Deri conditioned Shas's support in the Hebron agreement on the appointment of Bar-On as attorney-general.

The affair, she reported, began a few months ago, when Likud activist David Appel told Deri "I have a perfect attorney-general for you. It's Roni Bar-On and he has wonderful qualities as far as we're concerned: first, he'll be ours. Second, he's a Likud functionary, and third, he was Hanegbi's tutor, which will remove all suspicion of involvement on our part."

Deri confided in Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert and persuaded him that Bar-On was a perfect appointment, Hasson said. Then Deri met Bar-On, who promised him a plea bargain in which he would get out of his trial without public disgrace and thus be able to return to the cabinet.

After Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair resigned, Deri met with Netanyahu and the director-general of the Prime Minister's Office, Avigdor Lieberman, and informed them that unless Bar-On was appointed attorney-general, Shas would quit the government.

Netanyahu and Liberman told Hanegbi that Bar-On was the candidate for the post. Three close associates of Netanyahu's, attorneys Yitzhak Molcho, David Shimron, and Dan Avi-Yitzhak, warned him in turn that "such an appointment could act as a boomerang."

Following the objections to Bar-On's appointment, Hasson said, a few days before the Hebron agreement, Shas threatened to oppose it in the cabinet. But then Lieberman went to Deri and promised him that Bar-On would be appointed attorney-general after all. In exchange Shas removed its opposition to the Hebron agreement.

Hasson said yesterday she had firm evidence to substantiate her story and "I am absolutely convinced of my facts. It is rare for a reporter to have such excellent evidence."

Speaking on Channel 1's *Erev Hadash*, Hasson said, "I'm surprised Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi suggested I go to the police and show them what evidence I have. I am committed to protect my sources. Believe me, if I revealed them, many mouths would drop open. But much as I'd like to, I cannot do so."

Winning cards and numbers

In yesterday's daily Chance drawing, the winning cards were the king of spades, the eight of hearts, the eight of diamonds and the queen of clubs.

In yesterday's weekly Payis Hazak drawing, the holder of ticket number 658623 won NIS 1 million, while ticket number 396116 won a new car.

Those holding tickets 264647, 076866, 651487, 756962, 712781, 214431, 726282, and 279901 all won NIS 5,000, while tickets ending in 83331, 52807, 62443, 31442, 49151, 47279, 22485, 25285, 74463, 89484, 52288, 69003, 63367, 43910, 33817, 21518, 20437, 47109, and 42368 all were good for NIS 1,000.

Those holding tickets ending in 772, 663, 460 and 224 all won NIS 100; in 28, 05, 34 and 44 NIS 30; in 64 or 79 NIS 20 and in 1 or 6, NIS 10.

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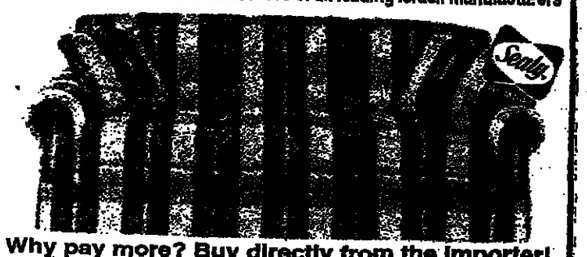
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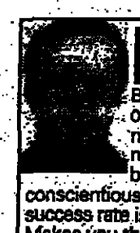
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Yeshiva students are joined in Hebron by a Jewish group from New Jersey for a march with a Torah from the Machpela Cave to the Shavei Hevron yeshiva in Beit Romano yesterday. (AP)

Two groups plant trees in Hebron

By HERB KEINON

While Tu Bishvat tree planting ceremonies were canceled around the country because of inclement weather, two groups went to Hebron to plant trees in a symbolic attempt to show that the city's Jewish settlement is there to stay.

Some 60 people from the Women in Green planted three large trees near Beit Hadassah. Women in Green leader Nadia Matar said the three trees were meant to symbolize that "all agreements are reversible, except for the covenant linking the people of Israel, to the Torah of Israel, and the Land of Israel."

Matar said after Monday's ceremony where hundreds of people tore their clothes in mourning over the transfer of most of Hebron to the PA, "we had to come immediately and have a ceremony that would symbolize hope, and the belief in the continuation of the settlement in Hebron. We wanted to show the people in Hebron that the people of Israel did not sign the agreement, but that it was signed only by a corrupt leadership which does not represent them anymore."

In addition to the Women in Green, a group of some 50 members of the Likud Central Committee, headed by MK Uzi Landau, planted trees in Kiryat Arba, Beit Hagai and Hebron.

Kiryat Arba Local Council head Zvi Katzover told the group that "not one meter has been built [in Kiryat Arba] since Netanyahu came to power. I call upon you to turn to the prime minister and ask why he is not building in Kiryat Arba, why there are no permits, why there are no plans."

A group of Jews from Teaneck, New Jersey also went to Hebron for a ceremony marking the dedication of a new Torah they donated to the Shavei Hevron yeshiva.

Yeshiva students and their guests marched with the Torah and Israeli flags from Machpela Cave to Shuhada Street and the yeshiva, located in Beit Romano.

Weather still causing disruptions; Kinneret barely rises

By DAVID RUDGE

Mop-up operations continued in the Ra'anana, Kfar Sava and Herzliya areas yesterday as residents counted the cost of flood damage from torrential rain in the region on Wednesday.

Heavy rain continued in many places yesterday, with the southern district bearing the brunt of the winter storms. Several roads in the Arava and Negev were closed due to flash floods and stranded motorists, including four army reservists, had to be rescued.

The four were rescued from the roof of their car which got stuck in a flood on the Ze'elim Bridge.

An Elite truck got stuck yesterday afternoon in a huge puddle in the Ein Gedi region, and the driver had to be rescued from the roof of the vehicle. Police closed the road between Neveh Zohar and Ein Gedi after floodwaters from nearby Nahal Hever washed over the road.

The rain, which was expected to die out today did not, however, help improve the level of water in Lake Kinneret.

Zvi Ortenberg, head of the Lake Kinneret Authority, said there had been far less precipitation in the North than in central and southern districts.

"As a result the level of water in the Kinneret has only risen by two centimeters, although we hope the inflow will further increase this in the coming days," said Ortenberg.

"The level of water in the lake has only gone up by three centimeters throughout the winter so far, which is not very good news," he said.

The water mark yesterday stood at 211.55 meters below sea-level - just 1.45 above the minimum mark.

Staff of the Mt. Hermon ski site said the wintry weather had helped re-cover the peak in snow following the snowfalls last week. The site will be open over the weekend for visitors, but staff said there is still insufficient snow for proper skiing.

French court orders Papon to stand trial

By ELDAD BECK

PARIS - France's highest court yesterday approved an earlier ruling of a district court ordering Maurice Papon, a senior officer of the Vichy police, to stand trial for alleged crimes against humanity committed during World War II.

Papon, 86, is accused of ordering the arrest and deportation of 1,690 Jews to Nazi death camps, between 1942 and 1944. His trial, the first involving an official of the Vichy regime accused of crimes against humanity, could begin as early as next autumn.

The French High Court yesterday rejected Papon's appeal of the previous ruling of a Bordeaux court. Papon's lawyers claimed during the appeal 10 days ago that their client could not be tried for crimes against humanity, since he had not been a member of the Nazi party or the Gestapo, nor had he adhered to the Nazi ideology. According to his lawyers, Papon was a senior official who had to execute orders given by his superiors.

The prosecutor responded that Papon, who served as the police commander in the Gironde southern region, could have resigned. However, he did not do so, and preferred executing orders "efficiently." Papon's consciously participating in the implementation of a well-organized plan, as was the Final Solution, is sufficient reason to press such charges against him, stressed the prosecutor.

Papon's trial would for the first time allow France to examine the Vichy regime's role in the Holocaust. Some 75,000 Jews were deported from France to death camps under the regime.

Papon's superiors, Jean Leguay and Maurice Sabatier, died in 1989 before they could be tried as Nazi collaborators. Papon himself seemed untouchable for years. Like many other Vichy officials, he remained in government service after the war and even served as Paris police chief in the 1950s under De Gaulle, and as budget minister in the 1970s.



Maurice Papon, in this 1991 file photo, will stand trial in France for crimes against humanity. (AP)

Under instructions of the late president, François Mitterrand, the French justice system had slowed down all legal procedures against Vichy officials who participated in the deportation of Jews, hoping that these persons will die of natural causes before they can be tried.

However, with the election of Jacques Chirac in May 1995, the French establishment's position radically changed. For the first time since WW II, Chirac recognized the responsibility of the French state for crimes against and persecution of Jews during the war. Chirac also gave instructions to avoid any political involvement in juridical procedures taken against Papon.

The only Frenchman ever tried for crimes against humanity, for his role in killing Jews under Nazi occupation, was Paul Touvier. However, Touvier - who commanded the French pro-Nazi militia in the Lyon region, was not an official of the Vichy administration.

Leaders of the French Jewish community welcomed the decision regarding Papon's trial. The Representative Council of Jewish Institutions in France (CRIF) expressed the hope that the trial will help educate French youth.

Papon blasted the High Court's decision, denouncing the "political character of a scandalous trial." Comparing his case to the Dreyfuss Affair, Papon said in a communique that he was a victim of a "plot," masterminded by a whole range of political bodies, "from the communists up to the summit of the state, involving foreign institutions."

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NEWS
in brief

Body of missing South African identified

The body of missing South African tourist Gregory Lewis, which washed ashore off the Herzliya cliffs on December 27, was identified yesterday. Lewis, 21, was a student at the Aish Hatorah Yeshiva in Jerusalem's Old City. Lewis was found with a rope tied around his waist and handcuffs on his right wrist. A key to the handcuffs was attached to the rope.

When the body was brought to the Abu Kabir Forensics Institute no signs of violence were found. Lewis disappeared on December 19. The last contact with him was in Haifa, where he stayed before planning to travel to the home of a Jerusalem rabbi. *Itim*

Levy to hold talks with EU in Holland

Foreign Minister David Levy is to hold talks in Holland on Tuesday, since under the new guidelines of the European Union, the rotating EU leadership cannot visit Israel on official business unless it can go to Orient House. Holland holds the EU leadership through June. While in Holland, Levy will also convene Israel's ambassadors to Europe. After visiting the Netherlands, Levy will head to Paris where he is scheduled to address a Jewish group and may meet French Foreign Minister Hevre de Charette, who is likely to come here in March. Foreign Ministry officials hope Israel's links with Europe will improve in the aftermath of the Hebron agreement. *David Makovsky*

MKs: End cheeseburgers ads on Channel 2

The Knesset Education Committee demanded this week that Channel 2 refrain from showing ads for cheeseburgers. "This publicity is very painful from a religious point of view," said Emmanuel Zisman, head of the committee.

The committee can't force the television station to stop airing the ads, Zisman said, but can only exert "moral" pressure.

He said, however, that station director Nahman Shai had told the committee he agreed with their position. McDonald's franchise owner Omri Padan said the company insisted on "our right to advertise everything we sell." *AP*

Tel Aviv Bar to visit Gaza

Members of the Tel Aviv Bar Association will visit their counterparts in Gaza City on Sunday to form a mutual organization of lawyers in both cities. Tel Aviv Bar Association chairman Moshe Aloni was invited personally by Palestinian Authority Justice Minister Freih Abu Medein, after the latter visited Tel Aviv around six months ago. "We hope that this visit will deepen relations between lawyers in the two regions," said Aloni. "We can convene in Tel Aviv and alternately in Gaza and we believe we can help lawyers in the region." *Raine Marcus*

Clalit personnel warn about system's debt

Senior Kupat Holim Clalit personnel sent letters yesterday to the prime minister, health and finance ministers and chairman of the Histadrut warning that the health system is more than NIS 1 billion in the red this year.

They urged the leaders to ensure that a non-political, authoritative person with considerable experience in administration and economics be named the next director-general of the health fund. They praised Avigdor Kaplan, who this week announced his intention of resigning after four years as director-general, for his success at rehabilitating the health fund's operations and image. *Judy Siegel*

State opposes Klingberg's parole

The State Attorney's Office yesterday strongly opposed releasing to Marcus Klingberg, serving a 20-year sentence for spying for the former Soviet Union. He has been in prison for 14 years.

"If Klingberg is released, and the man makes some mistake or slip of the tongue, there could be an irreversible catastrophe," a state representative told the parole board hearing at Prisons Service headquarters in Ramle. Klingberg, 78, attended the hearing, which was his first parole hearing to be open to the public.

Klingberg's attorney, Avigdor Feldman, told the parole board, headed by Judge Oded Modrik, that his client's health had deteriorated drastically since the previous hearing last July. He repeated previous arguments that Klingberg has no further intention of harming the security of the state. Feldman admitted, however, that he could not say with certainty that Klingberg does not still know dangerous secrets, since that material is still classified.

Klingberg was sentenced to 20 years in 1983 for giving the Soviet Union information related to biological warfare while he was deputy head of the Biological Institute in Ness Ziona.

Feldman noted that since the last hearing Klingberg has suffered a stroke that has left him partially paralyzed and subject to losses of consciousness, requiring his hospitalization.

State Attorney's Office representative Dvora Hen replied that there are many convicts in worse states of health than Klingberg. She pointed out that in his rejection of the appeal of the denial of Klingberg's previous parole request, Supreme Court President Aharon Barak had ruled that state security overrides consideration of an individual's health.

Judge Modrik postponed issuing a ruling on Klingberg's request till next week. *(Itim)*



President Ezer Weizman and his wife, Reuma, sample treats brought to the President's Residence yesterday by fruit growers to celebrate Tu Bishvat. (Tamar Mitzpi)

'Ace' Weizman still flying helicopters

By BATSHEVA TSUR

Israel's irrepressible president has been flying IDF helicopters more than 20 years after retiring from the air force, his bureau chief confirmed yesterday.

"It's an old story. It happened several months ago. The president got special permission from the late defense minister Yitzhak Rabin," Beit Hanassi director-general Arye Shumer said last night. "I can't understand why anyone would want to write about it now," he added.

According to a report, which appeared in yesterday's *Yediot Aharonot*, Weizman took part in a series of training exercises as a co-pilot in an Anafa troop-carrying helicopter. Weizman reportedly flew for about an hour each time.

But *Yediot* reported that, despite the special permission given to the president, there was dissatisfaction in the air force – because Weizman is now 72 years old. Pilots retire from the air force at 50 although senior officers continue flying from time to time, if they wish, to keep in shape.

According to the report, Weizman, who was a former air force commander and fighter bomber pilot, did a training course as a helicopter pilot when he was defense minister some 20 years ago.

During his trip to India earlier this month, the president was more than once in the cockpit of the air force jet that flew him to India and back, and on several internal Indian flights. During two particularly tricky landing attempts in dense fog at Agra, Weizman stood by but did not intervene in the pilots' decision not to land there.

Agency: Keren Hayesod withheld pledged funds

By BATSHEVA TSUR

The failure of Keren Hayesod to transfer all the funds pledged to the Jewish Agency has had a detrimental effect on the agency's recovery plans, senior agency officials charged yesterday.

"The UJA handed over all its pledges in cash to the agency ahead of time," one senior source said. "But there is a mess in Keren Hayesod. We received less than expected and some of the money was for designated projects."

"Keren Hayesod gave the agency some $60 million in cash, instead of close to $100m.," another source said. "The remainder went to the designated projects. We view this very gravely." The official added that the amount of cash collected by Keren Hayesod had been gradually diminishing "over the past four or five years, because of mismanagement."

But Keren Hayesod head Shlomo Hillel painted a different picture entirely.

"I am not prepared to join in the war of the Jews against the Jews," he said, commenting on the allegations of mismanagement. "There was a drop in donations from $99m. in 1995 to $87m. in 1996, which amounts to about 12%. We had planned to collect some $90m. so we were about $3 million short. But there are very real reasons for this."

Keren Hayesod, he pointed out, collects donations from Jewry in all parts of the world other than North America (where fund-raising is handled by the UJA).

There is a special problem in South Africa, Hillel noted. "Firstly, the value of the rand has dropped. And secondly, there has been a change in foreign currency regulations in that country. "We were able to get permission to take out only some of the money collected in South Africa and had to leave some of it there."

Hillel stressed that this was not an anti-Israel move. "It is the same for Israel as, say, Belgium," he said. "There is no discrimination against us but it is difficult to get foreign currency out of there in general."

In 1995, therefore, donations from South Africa stood at $12m. but last year, only $6m. reached the agency, he said.

Hillel said, however, that the main problem appeared to be with the UK. "Ministers or deputy ministers [in Israel] say irresponsible things – such as that Israel does not need money from the Diaspora, or that money will go for Jewish education abroad," Hillel said. "This has affected our campaign in Britain where they are now talking about Jewish continuity [in that country]."

As a result, donations to Israel from Britain dropped to a little more than half – $10.5m. in 1995, but only $5.5m. last year.

"Between South Africa and Britain, you have the missing 12%," he said.

Lauder seen as new JNF head

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK – Ronald Lauder, suddenly visible after years of quiet philanthropy, has emerged as the leading candidate to become the next president of the Jewish National Fund in the US, which also would make him a contender to head the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

Lauder, heir to the cosmetics empire and former American ambassador to Austria, is one of a handful of fabulously rich individuals whose reputations and wealth are a boon to the organizations that nab them.

If Lauder gets the JNF position, it would be the latest step in beefing up an increasingly public role for the philanthropist, who has been relatively discreet about his considerable commitments to Jewish schools and other institutions in Eastern Europe.

The post also would place Lauder in the running for the plum position in American Jewish organizational life: chairman of the Presidents Conference.

Lauder, an official of the World Jewish Congress, currently is one of three Jewish delegates to the Volcker Committee, which is overseeing the audit of dormant Holocaust-era accounts in Swiss banks.

It is widely believed that Lauder coveted the top post in the WJC. However, the current president, Edgar Bronfman, has made it clear that he has no plans to step aside.

In last spring's election, Lauder backed Binyamin Netanyahu, while Bronfman supported Shimon Peres.

Traditionally, JNF presidents have come up through the ranks of Hadassah and the Zionist Organization of America, and the current JNF president, Milton Shapiro, once led ZOA. However, that system is changing, as part of a series of reforms at JNF following an audit last fall that found the agency was inefficient. The other changes are expected to include a higher allocation to Israel.

Lauder is expected to head the slate of new JNF officers that is to be made public in March.

Histadrut to appeal court ruling over Haifa Chemicals dispute

By DAVID RUDGE

The long-running dispute at the Haifa Chemicals bayside factory took yet another twist yesterday, when the National Labor Court ruled against the Haifa court's decision to extend the collective labor agreement at the plant by another two years.

The national court, sitting in Jerusalem, upheld the appeal by the firm's management against the ruling of the lower court, which declared that the annulment of the accord by management was invalid.

The special session of the national labor court with seven judges found that the firm had acted properly and with integrity in informing the workers at the appropriate time that the agreement would not be renewed on its expiry date – at the end of last month.

The Histadrut then announced that it would appeal to the High Court of Justice against the national labor court's decision, which it maintained had ignored the rights of the workers.

"This is a black day for the justice system in Israel," declared Baruch Zaltz, head of the Histadrut's Haifa and district branch.

"The ruling of the national labor court on the appeal by management of Haifa Chemicals against the unprecedented decision of the regional labor court completely disregards the liberty and basic rights of workers," said Zaltz.

Management of the factory, where production has been at a standstill for over three months because of the dispute over the collective labor agreement, welcomed the decision of the national labor court.

The firm has been trying to negotiate a new labor accord that would allow it to carry out sweeping efficiency measures, including the dismissal of 120 workers, to enable the company to compete profitably on overseas markets.

Haifa Chemicals spokesman Eitan Loewenstein said the firm was calling on the workers and Histadrut representatives to honor court rulings – including that which instructed striking workers to leave the factory.

Loewenstein said management was also urging the workers to return to the negotiating table and reach a mutually acceptable agreement that would enable the factory to reopen and resume production.

Histadrut officials met with workers outside the factory gates yesterday to explain the latest legal moves and vowed to continue supporting the employees in their fight to keep organized labor at the factory.

Architect who threatened to blow himself up wanted 'to save cosmos'

By RAINE MARCUS

Architect and engineer David Straussmeir, who threatened to blow himself up if he did not speak to Leah Rabin on Wednesday, will appear in Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court for a remand hearing this morning.

Police will ask the court to send Straussmeir for psychiatric observation.

In a letter sent to *The Jerusalem Post* and in the hands of the GSS and police, Straussmeir, 37, employed as a senior engineer by the Beersheba Municipality, outlines his strange plans "to save the cosmos."

A native of Yugoslavia, Straussmeir claims he assisted the GSS and other authorities in smuggling Jews out of Eastern Europe.

In the letter, he says that in 1980 he was enlisted by Nazi-hunter Simon Wiesenthal and helped uncover documents pertaining to Nazis and war criminals' bank accounts in Switzerland and other countries.

He says he made aliya in 1985 and served in the Military Police.

He also threatens to blow up IDF and naval bases, the Knesset, military industry installations, intelligence bases and facilities, President Ezer Weizman's homes and the US Embassy.

His demands, which he claims were intended "to save the Jewish race," include having meetings with Queen Elizabeth in London and US President Bill Clinton in a synagogue in Washington.

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Brodet confirms plans to resign

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

Finance Ministry Director-General David Brodet yesterday confirmed his plans to resign.

Brodet, who did not give a date but said it would be "soon," was speaking to reporters after addressing Hadassah's National Board members, who are meeting for their mid-winter conference.

Brodet, who is chairman of the academic advisory board of the Hadassah College of Technology, told the 200 members he was excited about Israel's transition to "a fully market-oriented economy."

This market economy has absorbed the large wave of immigration, which since 1990 has constituted some 15 percent of the population, said Brodet, with the result that only 7% of new immigrants are unemployed.

Describing Israel as "the second Silicon Valley" Brodet said "What Israelis are doing in terms of R&D is now known all over the world" he boasted. "In the last four years," he said, "exports of technology grew by over 400% in dollar terms."

TAU zoologists save vultures from extinction

By JUDY SIEGEL

Tel Aviv University zoologists are playing mother hen with griffon vultures living on the Carmel and have brought them back from near-extinction. Taking eggs laid in the wild or in zoos, the scientists have set up a hatchery and are now waiting for the latest generation of chicks to break out of their shells; they will then place them in the nests of adoptive vulture couples and – in a few months – transfer them to cages on the Carmel and then free them.

Zoology Prof. Amos Ar and graduate student Ohad Hatzofe, along with the Rothschild Foundation and the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel, are carrying out this urgent work. Their basic research, the first of its kind on predatory birds, has produced discoveries about the vulture embryos' metabolism and eco-physiology, which are being implemented in the hatching project.

Forty-five years after vultures disappeared from the Carmel, they can again be seen standing guard at Nahal Oren or gliding over the range of hills near Haifa. Most of the vultures of the Galilee, the Golan, and the Negev have disappeared, partly due to their lack of success in multiplying naturally. Although there are over 100 vultures in the Gamla nature reserve, they produced only nine chicks in the past year, Ar said.



A newborn vulture chick is fed by an adoptive mother at Tel Aviv University's experimental hatchery. (Eyal Bar-Tov)

The vultures reach sexual maturity between the ages of four and six years. They are monogamous, and the females lay only one egg a year. The couples court, build nests, and mate between November and January, then incubate their egg (averaging 240 grams) until March. If the egg hatches, the chick remains in the nest for about 110 days and even afterwards is fed by its parents or accompanies them on flights during a period of several weeks.

Because of the heavy parental investment in a single chick, any interference with nesting or harm to the egg may cause the loss of a whole year; helicopter training near the breeding colony has caused adult vultures to abandon their nests, Ar said. Too-hot or -cold temperatures can also harm the embryo or the chick.

Since male and female vultures cannot be differentiated by sight, the TAU scientists conduct chromosome tests to create a matched pair and prevent the mating of siblings, which could result in birds with genetic defects.

So far, the project has matched 12 pairs in the university's zoological park, but only seven females have produced fertile eggs.

The vulture chick is hatched helpless, unable to stand on its own legs and fly, but it is covered with white down and opens its eyes immediately after leaving the egg.

The scientists found that many eggs in their labs never hatch, because in Ramat Aviv the embryo does not have enough moisture inside the shell compared to those on the Carmel. They learned to pierce the shells with tiny needle holes, which has increased the hatching rate to 90%. Once hatched, and weighing some 170 grams, the chicks are adopted by vulture couples.

To identify and follow them in the wild, the scientists bleach a few feathers with blond hair dye and attach tiny transmitters, Ar noted, so the scientists can always keep track of their feathered offspring.

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Thinking the unthinkable

Speculation is rampant as to whether the delicate verbal minuet between Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and adviser David Bar-Illan amounts to a trial balloon on the question of Palestinian statehood – a theory both Netanyahu and Bar-Illan have denied. The more significant question is not whether Netanyahu is trying to soften public opinion on the issue, but whether Israel is making a slow-motion concession that makes previous government concessions pale in comparison.

In this newspaper and then in *The New York Times*, Bar-Illan remarked that the future Palestinian entity will likely call itself a state, but that the key question is the entity's sovereign powers, not what it is called.

Netanyahu sought to reassure alarmed supporters that his goal remains "Palestinian self-government, but without the sovereign powers that could threaten us; in other words, not a sovereign state."

Subsequently, Labor Party leader-in-waiting Ehud Barak and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat both said, in effect, that the question of Palestinian statehood is not Israel's to answer. Even if Israel prefers a confederation with Jordan, said Barak, "the Palestinians will determine their own fate" and a state is "the likely result of the process." In Cairo on Wednesday, Arafat said he will declare a state "at the appropriate time" following the further redeployments that Israel has committed to completing by mid-1998.

If there was a conviction in the Israeli psyche that Netanyahu tapped in order to win the election, it was that negotiations with adversaries should be a matter of "give and take, not give and give." In the grand bargain between Israel and the Palestinians, the most that Israel can give is a Palestinian state. Yet the net effect of the government's comments downplaying the issue of statehood is to create the feeling that a state is either a fait accompli or, as Barak and Arafat say, not Israel's to give at all.

It is true that once Israel has finished Oslo's further redeployments, there may be little incentive for the Palestinians to refrain from declaring a state. In fact, Israel's main challenge will be to hold onto enough territory by the end of the interim agreement's implementation for there still to be something left to bargain with in the final status talks.

As long as the Palestinians have not received all the territory and sovereignty they think they can obtain on a negotiated basis, there is a disincentive against unilateral Palestinian actions. As the Palestinians come to control more territory, this disincentive is reduced. In effect, the question of Palestinian statehood is, from Israel's perspective, a waning asset. As time goes on, statehood is less and less Israel's to give, and more and more the Palestinian's to take. This is not just true from a territorial perspective, but because as time goes on, a Palestinian state becomes more conceivable both by Israelis and the international community. If Israel announced tomorrow that it were willing to agree to a Palestinian state, it would be considered a smaller concession than if the same announcement were made six months or six years ago.

It is certainly arguable that, no matter when it is made, the concession of a Palestinian state is too great for Israel to make. Hawks and doves should be able to agree, however, that the worst situation for Israel would be to be forced into accepting a state at the last minute, when it is no longer possible to demand anything in exchange.

The Hebron agreement is an example of this process on a smaller scale. If Netanyahu had announced upon entering office that he wanted to negotiate the implementation of the Hebron agreement quickly, as well as each side's list of outstanding issues in the interim agreement, he might have been able to achieve more for Israel. As it turned out, the Palestinians were able to paint Netanyahu as intransigent, blame September's violent clashes on him, and demand – rather than pay – a price for allowing Israel to withdraw from most of Hebron.

How can Israel avoid a replay of this dynamic, either with or without violence along the way, in the case of Palestinian sovereignty? The best way is for Israel to stake out a position on what it is willing to give and hopes to receive in exchange in advance of the final status negotiations.

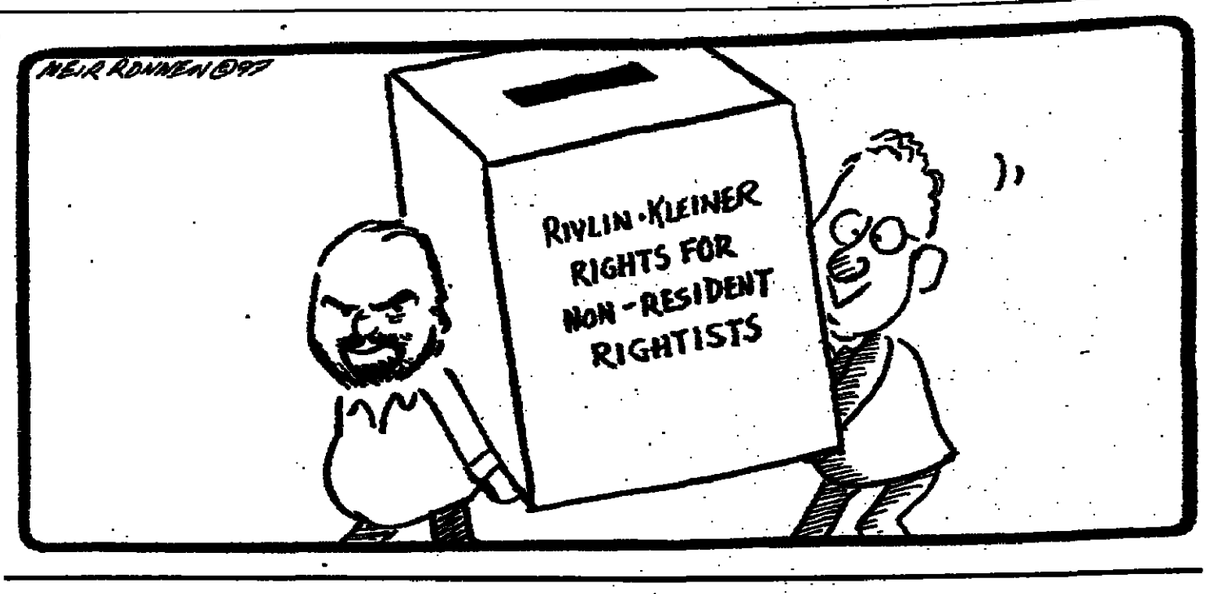
The Palestinians, for example, have very effectively staked out their position: they want a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. The more they have repeated this position, the firmer it is staked in the ground, and the harder it will be to move them from it in negotiations.

The sooner Israel begins to stake out its own position, the better it will have a chance to become equally firmly rooted. In Israel's case, the position could be based upon an explicit linkage between the depth of Palestinian sovereignty and the depth of peace. This would be similar to the linkage former prime minister Yitzhak Rabin suggested between the depth of withdrawal on the Golan to the depth of peace with Syria.

In such a linkage framework, Israel could suggest a demilitarized Palestinian state in exchange for the fullest possible peace with the Palestinians – a relinquishing of all claims against Israel. In exchange for a peace that is partial – in which the Palestinians still have territorial, moral, or financial claims they consider unresolved – Israel would only agree to something less than a state, or only to a very restricted state.

It may sound unthinkable for a Netanyahu government to conditionally but explicitly offer the Palestinians a demilitarized state.

The only thing more unthinkable would be for the government to act as if the concession of a state were not a concession at all, and perhaps fail to obtain a full peace in return.



The Palestine Army is here

BERNARD SMITH

If Israel's security is to depend largely on the demilitarization of a Palestinian state, Israelis should be worried. Historically, demilitarization has not been successful: the territory is eventually remilitarized.

The Palestinian Authority leadership will not willingly accept the humiliating and inhibiting servitude implied by demilitarization. Yasser Arafat will accede only for the sake of appearances, until such time as he can subvert the final agreement – which is precisely what he did with the restrictions placed on his security forces by the Oslo accords.

The accords closed the door on full demilitarization, allowing an excessive number of weapons and police, and the introduction of 12,000 battle-trained Palestinian Liberation Army soldiers and PNLA quasi-regulars.

This was insufficient for Arafat, who egregiously violated the partial demilitarization of the 1995 interim agreement by exceeding the number of "police" and weapons allowed, and obtaining antitank and anti-aircraft missiles, Katyusha rockets and hand grenades.

Israeli newspaper columnists, government officials and IDF officers refer to the PA police as "the Palestinian army," "soldiers," "an armed military force," to the PA's "military intelligence chief."

The prime minister's communications director: "... they have an army. [The PA does not] even bother calling the army a police any more, they call it an army." A.M. Rosenthal of the *New York Times*: "The Palestinians already have an army."

PA leaders flaunt their lack of concern for Israel's reaction to their violations. Nabil Shaath talks of 30,000 armed Palestinian soldiers; Arafat of a 30,000-man armed force.

Soon, the only ones left believing in Palestinian "police" and demilitarized autonomous areas will be those Israelis who, desperately hoping for peace, cling to the fiction that security can be assured by demilitarization.

Before the final settlement, the PA will field an estimated 50,000 lightly-armed infantrymen. While still embryonic, the Army of Palestine is here.

In final-status negotiations, Israel is likely to accept a Palestinian entity, and politicians will repeat the mantra that security will be guaranteed by demilitarizing it.

Several facts suggest that demilitarization in a Palestinian state will be short-lived.

Convinced that Palestine must have an army, Arafat began building the "core of a regular army" in 1989. He is expanding it under the euphemism of "police" until a structured military body takes shape as the armed force of an independent state.

An Arab country without an army is unthinkable. It would be the laughingstock of the Arab world

An Arab country without an army is unthinkable. It would be the laughingstock of the Arab world.

And this degradation, recognized as a severe infringement of sovereignty, will be imposed by coercion, acquiescence being the only route to statehood. It will also be unilateral; no part of Israel will be demilitarized.

In the unlikely instance that demilitarization stands any chance of success, it must be mutually acceptable and refer to a limited space rather than all of a country's territory.

In the case at hand, all four factors – infringement of sovereignty, coercion, reciprocity and extent of area – augur that demilitarization will almost certainly fail.

The PA will also argue the need to defend itself against domination or invasion by irredentist neighbors. Pointing to an external threat, Palestine could, one day, abrogate the demilitarization clauses, citing the rule of international law regarding "fundamental changes of circumstances," compounded by the internationally recognized right to self-defense.

All these reasons would be less meaningful were it not for Israeli tolerance of Arafat's flagrant violations of the Oslo accords, including creation of an army. This grievous policy only invites further breaches after an entity is solidly in place.

The outer limits to expansion of the Palestinian order of battle will depend only on how far violations can go before the threat to security provokes the certainty of an Israeli response.

ENDING breaches of demilitarization requires national will.

Peace generates devotion to the good life, and a lack of motivation to engage in corrective action, including war. The result is futile diplomatic protests and a tendency to rationalize violations.

This is best exemplified by the French and British reaction to the German remilitarization of the Rhineland in 1936, which threatened the peace of Europe.

Israelis will repeat what the British said about Germany: "They have the right to arm. After all, it's their country."

Faced with a long series of "minor" infractions, Israel would need to decide after each violation whether to take action, economic or military.

Complicating the process would be the state of the IDF. A reduction in its size following peace would produce extreme caution in responding forcefully to violations.

In an era of peace, the nation will turn inward to deal with internal problems, paying inadequate attention to "unimportant" activity across the border.

External pressures will interact with internal to block meaningful action. Israel would have to consider the possibility of US and European economic and Arab military retaliation.

As Arab countries and Iran stockpile chemical and biological weapons and missiles, Israel will be more hesitant to take military steps. Israelis will justify inaction by saying the new Arab entity "wouldn't dare challenge the IDF."

While Palestine poses no threat by itself, a militarized entity would constitute a real danger as part of an Arab coalition at war with Israel.

Operating in units up to the company level armed with antitank weapons, anti-aircraft missiles, mortars, machine guns and mines, the Palestinian Army would attack military and civilian targets just prior to and during the initial assault by Arab coalition forces.

In a variation of a 1940 German tactic, this lightly-armed infantry could be supplemented by hundreds, even thousands, of Syrian special forces introduced into Palestine as tourists and businessmen.

As Palestinian units cause delays in mobilization of reserves and the movement of tanks, APCs and logistical convoys to the front, the IDF would need to divert significant forces away from the axes of enemy advance in order to suppress them.

Tying up desperately-needed troops in the initial stage might be what one Israeli analyst called, "the 50 grams that would change the Arab-Israeli strategic balance in [the Arabs'] favor."

Those responsible for placing geostrategic territory in hostile hands will have much to account for. Naively and dangerously expecting that it will remain demilitarized, they are throwing away Israel's buckler, moving a potential enemy closer to its heart.

If the nation does not comprehend, quickly, the danger of employing demilitarization as a primary security measure in a final agreement, it will pay a terrible price for ephemeral tranquility.

The writer is a member of the board of directors of The Jerusalem Institute of Western Defense.

At the heart of a quiet revolution

MARK A. HELLER

PERHAPS the most striking thing about the Hebron redeployment was the speed with which the public and the media consigned it to the category of old news. Within a day or two, Hebron was forgotten and attention turned to the next problem: inflated salaries in the public sector.

The aftermath of Hebron is significant because it reflects the quiet revolution that has overtaken Israeli thinking about relations with the Palestinians. At the heart of that revolution is the idea of a Palestinian state, which was once so far beyond the pale that those who advocated it were branded as traitors. But it has now become part of establishment thought.

A Palestinian state may not yet be part of the Israeli consensus, the way Sharm e-Sheikh once was and united Jerusalem still is, but the idea is now so conventional that any government which endorses it as part of a peace settlement – especially a Likud-led government – will enjoy the support of a working majority in public opinion.

For a long time, this revolution was overlooked by much of the political class, perhaps because it was obscured by the raucous protests of right-wing demonstrators and the acts of violence that have marred public life.

In fact, it has been evolving since the outbreak of the intifada, when attitude surveys began to show that a consistent majority of respondents expected the eventual emergence of a Palestinian state, whatever their own personal preferences.

With a few exceptions, the political leadership tended to lag behind on this issue, continued to treat the idea as some kind of political "third rail," and caught up with the public only very recently.

The political leadership has only recently caught up with public opinion on the question of a Palestinian state

Despite the fact that the logic of partition was at the very heart of the Oslo agreements, Yitzhak Rabin insisted on using the less categorical term "separation" to defend and promote the peace process with the Palestinians. The Labor Party finally abandoned its long-standing rejection of a Palestinian state only in the 1996 election platform.

SINCE THE elections, spokesmen of the current government have used all kinds of adjectives and analogies to explain how the Palestinians has come down from the cosmic level of statehood, nationhood, independence, self-determination and so forth to the more mundane but meaningful level of security interests and material needs.

In short, the battle over the principle of a Palestinian state has ended – in many ways, that state already exists. What remains to be determined is its geographical extent and functional authority.

In some of his recent declarations on the question of permanent status, Prime Minister Netanyahu has essentially endorsed this approach.

Under the cover of rejecting a Palestinian state because of the Israeli interests and needs with which it is allegedly incompatible – including control of airspace, assurance of water resources, exclusion of Arab military forces west of the Jordan, the security and welfare of the settlements, and united Jerusalem – he has implicitly defined the negotiating agenda and the terms for Israeli endorsement of Palestinian statehood.

This is a good start, made still more promising by the lessons of the Hebron negotiating experience.

But it does yet not guarantee a successful outcome. Much still depends on how well the chaff of domestic rhetoric is separated from the wheat of actual policy.

If anachronistic slogans like "We shall never permit a Palestinian state" are used only to mollify the mystics and shore up Netanyahu's domestic support, they can be a useful tool in sustaining the government.

But if they actually determine the negotiating stance, they will seriously compromise the government's ability to promote Israel's real interests and needs.

The writer is senior research associate at the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv University.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ISRAEL BASHER

Sir, – You identify Neal Sher, whose lengthy diatribe, "A Jewish thought policeman," against ZOA President Morton Klein you published on January 10, as a "former director of the Office of Special Investigations in the US Justice Department." As an experienced special investigator, he must surely know that the key sentence in his attack on Klein is a gross untruth. He writes that "[Thomas] Friedman's views, according to Klein, have been unfair and hostile *toward the present government of Israel*" (my italics).

Klein's clearly expressed views on Friedman have nothing to do with the present or any other government of Israel. Mr. Friedman has for years been a prominent "Israel basher," a vilifier of the Jewish State, and that was the reason (and it did not need a special investigator to discover it) for Klein's anger at the honor conferred on Thomas Friedman (of all people).

Already 15 years ago, Friedman compounded his poison-pen record against Israel by the pretense that he had been a nice pro-Israel Jewish boy until he was "converted" by alleged unacceptable behavior of Israel in Lebanon. His mendacity and guilt were exposed some years ago in *Commentary* magazine by historian Professor Jerold Auerbach, who recalled that, while still a student in 1974, this *tzaddik* Friedman had (with others) criticized American Jews for protesting against Yasser Arafat's performance at the UN Assembly. Arafat there delivered a characteristically vicious attack on Zionism and Israel. (This was a bare six months after Arafat's braves, as part of a series, massacred a crowd of schoolchildren on a hike at Ma'alot, and a second "minor" massacre at Kiryat Shmona (both in Galilee). Two years earlier, his men had killed 11 Israeli athletes at the Munich Olympics.

According to Friedman's chronology, all these events occurred at the height of his period of undying love for Israel. It was thus as a champion defamer of Israel that Friedman had his record attacked by Mr. Klein; and as a public figure himself, it was not only Klein's right, but his duty to denounce the disgraceful choice of Friedman – of all people – for an honor by (of all organizations) the Anti-Defamation League.

SHMUEL KATZ

Tel Aviv.

DOWN'S SYNDROME

Sir, – An extremely painful error appeared in the article on the ESRA Community TV programs by Matt Rees in *Time Out* on Friday, January 18.

Dekel Shikartsi, the boy with Down's syndrome, is a proud, confident and wonderful person, with a fantastic sense of humor and with oodles of talent. The word "ashamed" or "not ashamed" of his "condition" (as Matt Rees calls it) does not even enter his mind – nor I am sure, does it enter the mind of any Down's syndrome person. I may have told the following story to Matt Rees and, giving him the benefit of the doubt, this may have caused his confusion.

Dekel's brother, Ofer, being 14 years older, was a little ashamed of being seen with his Down's syndrome brother – until an incident occurred on the bus they were traveling on. A crowd of kids came on and started taunting and laughing at Dekel. Before Ofer could do or say anything, Dekel himself said to these kids: "Please don't laugh at me – you wouldn't like to be like me – and if you had one more chromosome, you too would be like me."

This incident changed Ofer's attitude towards his brother and, as anyone who has seen this item on our English Community TV (or the play which the brothers now perform) they will understand that the reason for their performing together is because Ofer (an established actor himself) realized what a wonderful actor Dekel was and *not* as indicated by Matt Rees.

Both Sheera and I are proud and grateful to have had the opportunity of meeting Dekel, Ofer and Dahlia, their incredible mother (I wish we could have screened our entire interview with this remarkable woman).

In conclusion, I would like to encourage anyone who wishes to do the ESRA video course. It opens up so many new vistas as well as meeting wonderful and interesting people. Having a terrific daughter like mine to work with definitely helps!

MARY POPPER

Herzliya.

GRATITUDE TO ALLIES

Sir, - I read Joseph Bomstein's letter of January 7, "The hunger winter," and would like to emphasize for his benefit and that of all Allies who made such a truly heroic effort to alleviate that hunger, that now, more than half a century later, I still remember as if it were yesterday our joy and gratitude at being on the receiving end of that wonderfully humanitarian endeavor.

Thank you all, dear people.

PROF. MARGE E. LANDSBERG

Haifa.

POSTSCRIPT

FORGET PARIS waiters. Forget New York junkies. Forget war-torn Belfast and snowy Buffalo. For that matter, forget Jerusalem's cabbies. The world's most hostile city? According to *Conde Nast Traveler*, it's Atlantic City.

The upscale New York-based magazine for world travelers, citing a survey of more than 35,000 readers, published its list of the world's top cities, islands, hotels, resorts, cruise lines, spas, airlines and car rentals.

Sydney was voted top city; Maui, Hawaii, the best island; and the Inn at Spanish Bay, in Pebble Beach, California, the best resort.

"And last as well as least, the world's most hostile city is Atlantic City, New Jersey, which this year spares Los Angeles and Miami their annual outrage at being voted the least friendly spots on planet Earth," the magazine said.

The survey was distributed to randomly selected readers. Cities were ranked for cultural enrichment, restaurants, environment, friendliness and fun. (Atlantic City also finished last in cultural enrichment.)

How can a city with more than 29,000 slot machines, a world-famous Boardwalk, a free beach and 14 pages of telephone directory ads for escort services score so poorly?

Irene Schneider, senior editor, pointed out that *Conde Nast Traveler* readers are wealthy people who prefer foreign travel.

"In a way, it's not surprising our readers don't like Atlantic City," she said. "It's not their kind of place."

Keeping the cards he needs to play the game

GERALD M. STEINBERG

Despite appearances to the contrary, the prime minister does have a strategy in dealing with the Palestinians. It was clearly embodied in the agreement linking the Hebron withdrawal to the three further IDF redeployments.

By delaying those pullbacks and limiting their scope, Binyamin Netanyahu has given his government more options in the final-status negotiations – including alternatives to a Palestinian state.

Most of the attention was focused on Hebron. But the most important issue has always been the final-status agreement to be concluded by May 1999. Under Oslo 2, Israel withdrew from six cities – and now Hebron – and also pledged to make three more redeployments to "specified military locations."

While these are unspecified in this new agreement, Arafat has stated that he expects to receive 80-90 percent of the land still under Israeli control. (The Beilin-Abu Mazen plan sees over 90 percent of the territory transferred to a Palestinian state.)

Yet had there been such redeployments, Israel would have been faced with a fait accompli. Controlling most of the territory, the Palestinians could have declared an independent state unilaterally, at any time. Thus, going into the final-status negotiations, Netanyahu would have been left without any cards to play.

Netanyahu has often stated his opposition to a fully sovereign Palestinian state, for pragmatic rather than ideological reasons. From the security perspective, such a state would be a threat to Israel and a source of instability in the region. Irredentists would seek more and more of Israeli territory and forge alliances with Iraq and other violent groups in the Middle East.

Armed with tactical missiles and other weapons brought in through air and sea ports, the Palestinians could disrupt Israeli aircraft and tank movements in the event of war; their state could also be a base for terrorism.

But if, during the negotiations, Israel continues to control large areas in the disputed territory (approximately 50 percent or more, distributed in a defensible pattern), the Palestinians will have great difficulty in unilaterally declaring or being recognized as a viable state.

Arafat will thus have to seek his objectives within the negotiations, and to respond to the security requirements of Israel and the rest of the region.

Netanyahu's policies in the Hebron negotiations may have saved the peace process

BEYOND a Palestinian state, what are the options for final status?

Some, including a limited state, have already been discussed by Netanyahu and his adviser David Bar-Illan. (The examples of Andorra and Puerto Rico are misleading; this situation is unique, and there may not be any precedents.)

Alternatively, there is the possibility of a link to Jordan, perhaps in the form of a federation. External security and defense would then be the responsibility of the Jordanian government, in coordination with Israel; the Palestinians, for their part, would enjoy full internal independence and self-determination.

From the perspectives of regional security and stability, a Palestinian-Jordanian federation may be preferable to a Palestinian state.

Dreaming of full independence, the Palestinians may be reluctant to accept this option, but if they are given the choice of a freeze in the process, with Israel still controlling at least 50 percent of the territory, or federation, they might be persuaded to accept the latter, or risk losing the gains of Oslo. This option would make it more difficult for Arafat and the PLO to revert to terrorism in order to pressure Israel into making concessions.

THIS IS the real importance of the changes in the original agreements. The changes pertaining to security within Hebron are secondary.

By delaying the last and most important stage until mid-1988, Netanyahu has the next 18 months to test Palestinian intentions.

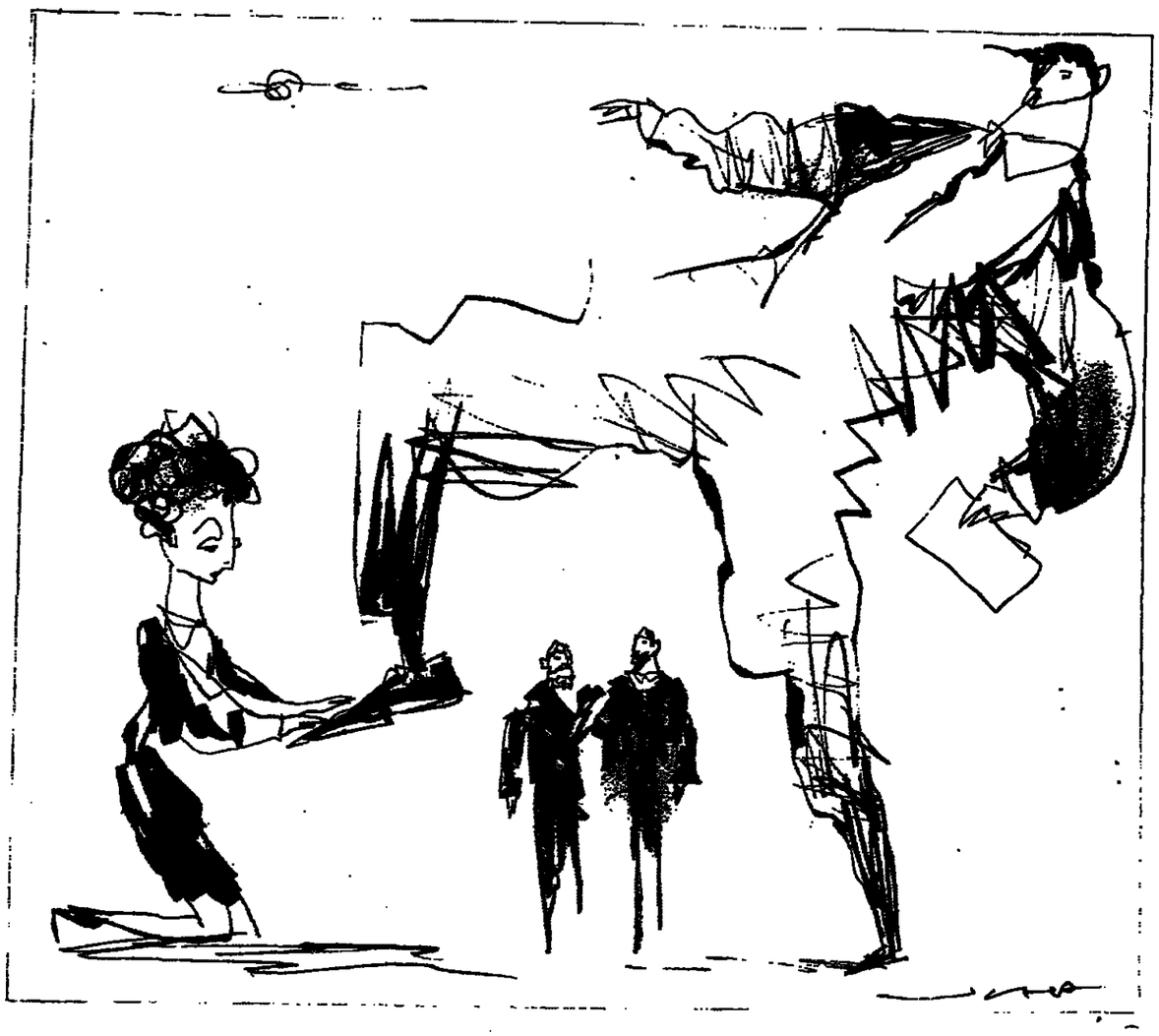
If, during this time, Arafat insists on a fully sovereign state as the only option – or threatens to declare a state unilaterally – the Israeli side can maintain its current deployments.

The letter former secretary of state Warren Christopher gave to Netanyahu also strengthens the Israeli position. In it, and in the remarks of US coordinator Dennis Ross, the Americans endorsed Israel's right to decide the nature of the withdrawals in each of the three further redeployments independently, and they are not subject to further negotiations. It is not unlikely that the Americans share Israeli concerns regarding a unilateral Palestinian declaration of independence.

Contrary to the "conventional wisdom," Israel's policies in the Hebron negotiations may actually have saved the peace process. At the same time, Netanyahu has created the basis for stability after the final-status negotiations.

Critics may carp that it took too long, and charge that the price was too high. But the logic was there. So is the benefit.

The writer is a senior research fellow at the Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies at Bar-Ilan University.



Shame, spit, and an oversized shoe

SHARON SHENHAV

One way or another, the abuse of women is never far from the headlines. Rich or poor, religious or secular, high school dropouts or PhDs, women are victims of men.

Jewish women, however, especially Jewish widows, are open to a unique kind of abuse that stems directly from the fact of their Jewishness.

A religious ceremony called *halitza* is bound up with an ostensibly noble purpose: ensuring the continuation of a childless man's name after his death. However, it has meant agony for those women caught up in it.

The usual response when the subject is brought up is that this 3,000-year-old practice no longer exists in the modern State of Israel. In fact, not only is *halitza* very much alive, it has become a modern tool used by unscrupulous and greedy men to abuse Jewish widows.

A short while ago Na'amat attorney Etty Pilpel traveled to Paris with Elizabeth Cohen, a 36-year-old Israeli widow who had waited almost six years to undergo the ceremony that would finally free her to remarry.

Her case began in February 1991, when she and her family were involved in a serious car accident. Cohen's young daughter was killed immediately; her husband died several hours later. Cohen survived her injuries to find herself a childless widow, since the child had died before the father.

Slowly coming out of mourning, Cohen learned that if she ever wanted to marry again and start a new family, Jewish law required her to obtain a "release" from her husband's brother.

According to the Torah, childless widows were automatically betrothed to their brothers-in-law in "levirate marriage" (Deuteronomy 25:5-6). The widow was supposed to bear a child by the brother-in-law who would carry the name of the deceased husband: "And it shall be that the firstborn she bears shall succeed in the name of his brother that is dead, that his name not be blotted out of Israel."

In cases where a man refused to do his duty by his brother, the ancient law allowed him to perform the ceremony of *halitza*, thereby releasing his sister-in-law to marry another man.

In the post-talmudic period there was a dispute over whether *halitza* was actually preferable to levirate marriage. Ashkenazi communities thought so, while the Jews of Spain and North Africa, as well as those in Yemen, Babylonia and Persia, held to levirate marriage.

In 1950, Israel's Chief Rabbinate issued a legislative enactment (*takkana*) prohibiting levirate marriage in Israel outright and making *halitza* as laid down in the Torah obligatory for all the country's communities. Thus there was no other route for childless widows who wished to remarry. The ceremony could take place in any rabbinical court anywhere recognized by the Israeli rabbinical establishment.

The Torah enjoins us not to oppress the widow. Yet Jewish widows are open to a terrible form of abuse

So Cohen contacted her brother-in-law, who lived in Paris, requesting *halitza*. She encountered stony refusal. His parents declared that since their son had lost his life, they would not assist his widow to have one.

Then, after some thought, the family decided to grant *halitza* – at a price. And what a price! They demanded Cohen's apartment plus contents, and tens of thousands of dollars in cash.

What could Cohen do? She transferred much of her assets. Then the brother-in-law, who had been against *halitza*, decided to dig in his heels.

Cohen turned to Israel's rabbinical courts, finally obtaining a maintenance order against the brother-in-law in the amount of $1,000 per month.

Rabbis from Israel traveled to France and enlisted the aid of the chief rabbis of France and Paris. All to no avail. The family, prominent in the Paris Jewish community, refused to free Cohen.

Years went by; Cohen's biological time clock ticked on.

The family even came to Israel for a memorial ceremony for their dead son and granddaughter. An attempt to stop them leaving until *halitza* was granted failed when they crossed the border and returned to Paris from Jordan.

Cohen turned to Na'amat's lawyers, who began the process of implementing the maintenance order in France. Since the brother-in-law had never paid up and was now in arrears in the amount of $60,000, we contacted the French Jewish Lawyers organization, which agreed to help enforce the order.

This threat seemed to work. Finally, in November, after a last-minute attempt by the family to extort even more money from Cohen, she and her lawyer entered a Paris room filled with rabbis and yeshiva students for the *halitza* ceremony. They were the only two women present.

The brother-in-law had to don a special, very large shoe. This Cohen had to remove, and then spit on the ground. There was enormous interest in the quantity of her saliva, which was studied very carefully. At last Cohen was declared free to remarry.

THIS incredible, shameful story should never have happened. Sadly, in the 17 years I have practiced law in Israel, I have handled almost a dozen similar cases, each one with its own special pain and suffering.

Always the brother-in-law and/or his family attempted to blackmail the widow.

Childless widows aren't so rare in our society. What happened to Cohen could happen to any Jewish woman, even if she and her husband had borne children.

In 1921, recognizing the need for Jewish law to adapt to Jewish contemporary needs in the Land of Israel, Rabbi Abraham Isaac Kook, the revered first chief rabbi, called on the rabbinical courts to reinterpret Jewish law in conformity with modern life.

He also declared that sometimes, "for the sake of heaven," the rabbinate would need to pass new legislative enactments to meet the needs of new legal or social situations.

Cohen's story cries out for change. While *halitza* may have played an important role thousands of years ago, it is hard to find any reason to retain a practice that has become so distorted as to bring only shame and dishonor on Jewish law, while causing untold pain and suffering to Jewish widows.

Jewish tradition has always been known for its sensitivity to the needs of the weaker members of society. In fact, the Torah makes special mention of widows, enjoining us not to oppress them.

Legislative enactments of the type envisioned by Rabbi Kook were enacted by the Chief Rabbinate in the 1940s. These included the elimination of levirate marriage and the requirement that a recalcitrant brother-in-law, refusing to grant *halitza*, support the childless widow.

Nonetheless, the oppression of Jewish widows continues.

For the "sake of heaven" and *simple justice, the time has come* to eliminate *halitza*, the way levirate marriage was eliminated almost 50 years ago.

The writer, Na'amat's legal adviser from 1982-94, is director of its overseas division.

God bless America

SHLOMO AVINERI

UTOPIA is a small country situated somewhere in the Mediterranean. Next year it celebrates its 50th anniversary.

It is a country with few insurmountable problems; it enjoys interesting relations with its neighbors, has prospered since its founding, and has no social or economic difficulties to speak of.

One thing and one thing alone disturbs its citizens' peace of mind – and that is how to separate state and religion.

It was for this reason that the Utopians decided to dispatch a delegation to observe this week's inauguration of the president of the United States.

The exciting news had reached them that, by dint of erecting a wall separating religion from the public sphere, the Americans had succeeded in guaranteeing religious freedom for the individual without impinging on the wider arena.

The Utopians wisely thought they might learn something from the American experience. What follows are excerpts from the delegation's draft report:

The imposing ceremony opened with the Rev. Billy Graham, known worldwide for his crusading efforts to return humanity to Jesus, giving the invocation.

He asked all present – a quarter of a million people (including our Utopian observers) – to bow their heads in prayer, and they did so. He then asked the Heavenly Father to bless the United States, its people and its president.

He ended by blessing the crowd in the name of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

The Utopian delegation was unable to elicit the response of the tens of millions of non-Christian American citizens – Jews, Moslems, Buddhists et al – to this gracious benediction.

Is America a secular country masquerading as a religious one, or a religious country acting like a secular one?

The beautiful music that accompanied the ceremony was produced mostly by church choirs. A medley of patriotic songs, rendered also by a powerful woman soloist, included many religious motifs like the "Battle Hymn of the Republic," in which angels are portrayed standing by America.

Then the vice president, followed by the president, took the oath of office, pledging to guarantee and protect the (secular) US Constitution. This they did with their hands resting on their respective family bibles – Christian, of course, including the New Testament.

Both men ended their oaths with the prescribed formula "So help me God." And President Clinton concluded his eloquent inauguration speech, in which he condemned all racial and religious bigotry, with the words "And always, always, God Bless America."

OUR baffled Utopians are still undecided over how to evaluate what they saw. Is the US a secular country masquerading as a religious one, or a religious country masquerading as a secular one?

Is it a country which combines the separation of church and state with a deep commitment to religious symbolism at public ceremonies, including the symbol of the Trinity? Or is it a society where citizens are comfortable with these contradictions and don't lose any sleep over them?

It's always possible, of course that our Utopians, provincial folk who always cite the American example, don't really understand the complexity and multihued texture of real – as opposed to idealized – American social life.

The citizens of Utopia are eagerly awaiting publication of the delegation's conclusions.

Will Utopia go ahead and follow the American example? If it does, we might even see Rabbi Yitzhak Kadourie (noted kabbalist, he of the election incantations and invocations) being invited to open the country's 50th anniversary celebrations next year.

The author teaches political science at the Hebrew University.

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Violence erupts over media in Serb town

KRAGUJEVAC, Serbia (AP) – Police beat up protesters in a central Serbian town yesterday during a face-off over control of local media, and the mayor warned that violence could spiral.

Hundreds of police had barricaded themselves inside the radio and TV station in Kragujevac, about 150 km south of Belgrade, to prevent their takeover by new city officials. Thousands of opponents to Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic surrounded them, threatening to use force to enter.

About 30 cars and trucks blocked traffic on the main road between Kragujevac and Belgrade yesterday afternoon. But some 60 riot policemen charged with batons, badly beating up two protesters and breaking up the blockade.

Police also confiscated Associated Press Television footage of the incident.

Kragujevac was won by opponents of Milosevic in Nov. 17 local elections. In contrast to his treatment of many other cities and towns in Serbia, Milosevic has allowed the opposition to take power there.

Control of the media is a central issue in the struggle between Milosevic and the opposition. Whoever wins city hall controls local radio and television stations.

Milosevic has used a monopoly on the media to maintain support, especially in provincial towns and rural areas. He needs to have control of the media message this year as Serbia prepares for presidential and parliamentary elections.

Negotiations on the handing over of the station, which started after midnight, failed and that the protests will continue, local opposition leader Aleksandar Radosavljevic said.

"Tensions are extremely high," said Borivoje Radic, the new head of municipal government in Kragujevac. "The television has done us lot of harm, and now it can lead us to open clashes with the police."

Radic said opposition supporters, who have been blocking the radio and TV building since Wednesday, were furious. They were threatening to seal Kragujevac off if the station is not handed over soon.

Police entered the station Wednesday, saying they were protecting the studios pending a court ruling on the official Serbian media's challenge of the handover.

In Belgrade, protesting students spent their fourth consecutive night facing a heavily armed police cordon that has been preventing their marches against Milosevic.

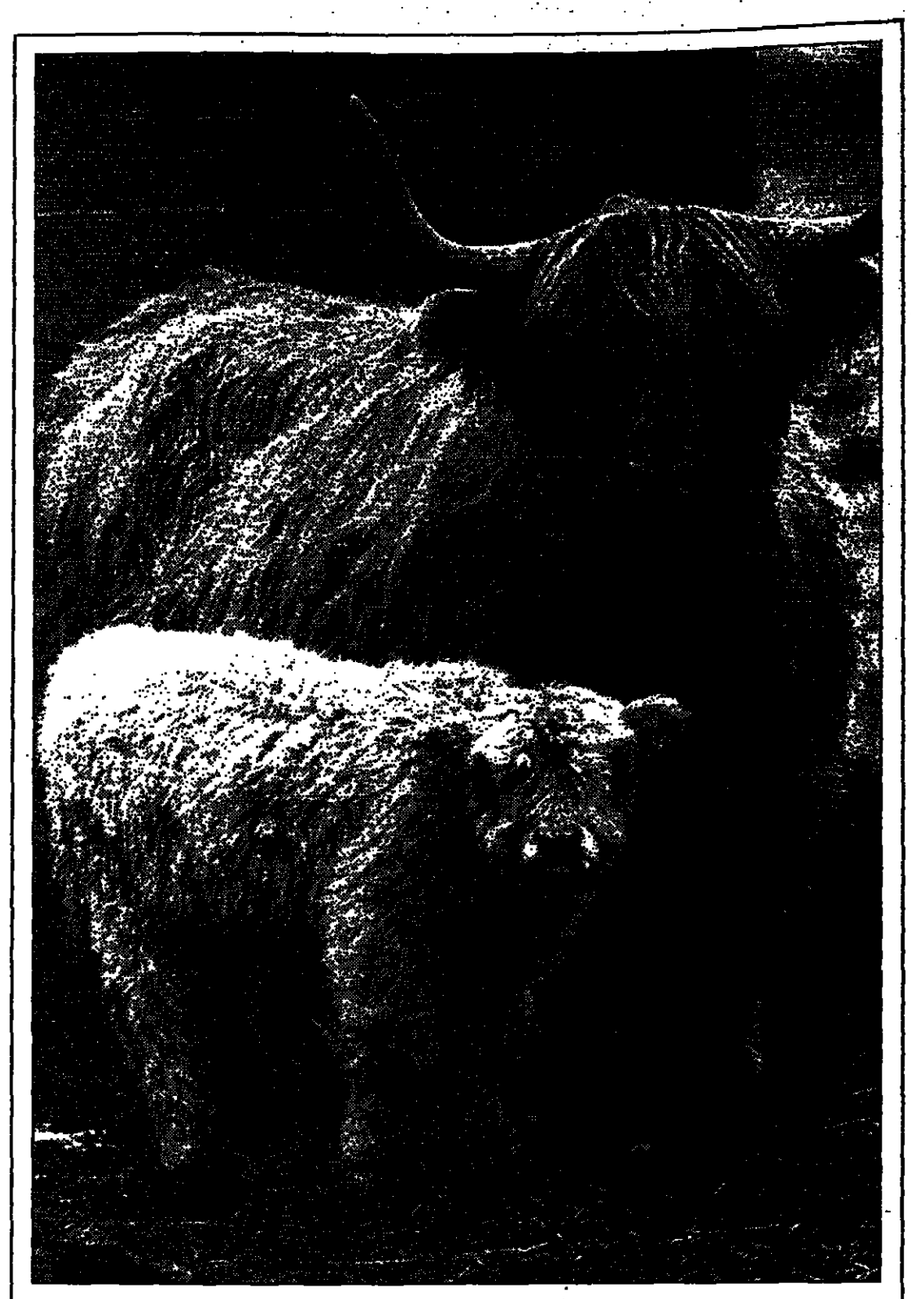
Despite freezing weather, students kept their spirits high by singing, dancing and staging an overnight party in the city center.

The protests are entering their 10th week since authorities annulled opposition victories in the local elections. No resolution to the dispute is in sight.

This week, lawmakers from Milosevic's governing Socialists started legal proceedings against the Belgrade electoral commission, which has twice insisted that the opposition won the city council in the Serbian capital.

The commission has not backed down, and on Wednesday gave the opposition four more seats than it previously had reckoned. That gave the opposition 64 seats in the 110-seat city council, compared to 27 for the Socialists. Other parties were awarded the rest of the seats.

Belgrade courts controlled by Milosevic have overturned the commission's findings.



Public enemy?

A Scottish highlander race veal and a cow imported from Britain stand in a meadow near Berlin. Germany has announced that all British and Swiss cattle will be slaughtered to calm public fears after a case of mad cow disease was reported in Germany. (Reuter)

Austria's parliament salutes Vranitzky

VIENNA (Reuter) - Austria's outgoing chancellor Franz Vranitzky yesterday bade farewell to parliament after nearly 11 years in power, winning applause from most deputies but a cold shoulder from the far right.

Vranitzky, 59, who resigned on Saturday in a decision which took the nation by surprise, thanked the assembly for its work and ended a downbeat speech with the words: "Long live the Republic!".

Parliamentarians from the ruling Social Democratic Party and its junior coalition partner, the conservative People's Party, rose from their seats to salute the man who has led them since June 1986.

Members of the leftist Greens and centrist Liberal Forum party applauded politely but far-right Freedom Party deputies kept silent.

Vranitzky, Europe's longest-serving leader after German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, named finance minister Viktor Klima as his successor as chancellor and Social Democratic Party leader.

Klima, 49, who was present in parliament with most of the current cabinet, is now shuffling Social Democrat ministerial portfolios, easing out leftwingers in favor of moderates.

Austrian media reports said Klima had almost completed his cabinet lineup ahead of a formal swearing-in ceremony expected next Tuesday but the post of finance minister was still empty.

Vranitzky's term in office has been shadowed by the rise of far-right leader Joerg Haider, who yesterday denied his party had held talks with conservatives about forming a government.

Haider said his anti-immigration party would only consider talks on joining a coalition after fresh elections.

While the Social Democrat vote has slumped since Vranitzky took over in 1986 – dipping below 30 percent in European elections last October – support for the far right has risen sharply from around nine percent ten years ago before Haider became leader.

Vranitzky told parliament he had often been criticized in the past for being too much of a consensus politician.

"I always wanted to avoid tensions...and rather look for harmony when the situation was difficult," he said.

Vranitzky said at the weekend that perhaps his greatest achievement was to guide Austria into the European Union and turn a flat economy into one of Europe's best performers.

He has been credited for repairing the country's image after the controversial presidency of Kurt Waldheim, who was accused of obscuring his past in Hitler's army.

Vranitzky also apologized to Jews, saying Austria shared responsibility for the horrors committed by the Nazi regime.

Bulgarian opposition continues protests

SOFIA (Reuter) – Bulgarian opposition supporters held a 17th day of protests yesterday as new president Petar Stoyanov met leaders of warring political factions to seek a way out of a deadlock blocking formation of a new government.

Stoyanov, who took office on Wednesday, held separate, hour-long meetings with the opposition and leaders of the Bulgarian Socialist Party (BSP), which has the majority in parliament, but there was no immediate sign of a breakthrough.

The constitution requires the president to ask the ex-communist Socialists to form a new government but the opposition wants a quick general election.

About 2,000 students held their daily rally by the Sofia university, singing and dancing to rock music, while about 200 doctors protested outside the health ministry to demand better pay and resources.

About 18,000 people gathered in the early evening outside Sofia's gold-domed Orthodox cathedral for the opposition's daily rally.

Trade unions, opposition parties and students met to coordinate their protests. A joint statement reiterated their demand for elections and threatened nationwide protests if the Socialists formed a new cabinet.

Police: Woman slain over Internet friendship

POTTSTOWN, Pennsylvania (AP) – A woman who received flowers from a man she corresponded with on the Internet has been slain, and her husband has been charged with murder.

The dozen roses were sent several days ago to "Brandis," the online name used by Marlene Stumpf, 47, police said. Her son found her body on the kitchen floor with three blood-covered knives nearby.

Raymond Stumpf, 54, her husband of 13 years and host of a local cable television show, was found in the dining room, bleeding from arm and stomach wounds that police consider self-inflicted.

"It was a particularly gruesome scene with a lot of blood that showed evidence of extreme violence," prosecutor Bruce Castor Jr. said Wednesday."

Stumpf told police his wife started slapping him during an argument Monday night and he "just went wild."

Detectives hope Mrs. Stumpf's computer and computer files will provide information about her online relationships and people who could help prosecutors with a motive, Castor said. The man who sent the flowers has not been identified.

Greece asks if US ready to shoot down Turkish jets

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Greece yesterday questioned if the United States was willing to shoot down Turkish warplanes in order to guarantee a ban on military overflights of Cyprus.

Foreign Minister Theodoros Pangalos cast doubt on the effectiveness of a US proposal for a ban on flights over the island by Greek and Turkish warplanes in exchange for Cyprus canceling the purchase of a Russian air defense system.

"Does this mean that the US will act as a guarantor of the ban on overflights no matter what happens?" Pangalos asked a group of reporters. "Does this mean that if the Turks intensify the situation on Cyprus, will the American air force intervene to destroy Turkish aircraft that will come...?"

Pangalos explained that if the US was willing to prevent Turkey from repeating its 1974 invasion of the island "then this is very interesting and we can talk about it."

The US, Turkey and Greece are all members of the Western Alliance.

Cyprus created a crisis between Greece and Turkey after it decided to buy Russian S-300 missiles to defend itself against a perceived Turkish threat.

Turkey said the missiles, along with planned Greek air force and naval bases on the island, would shift the strategic military balance in the region. It threatened to take steps to prevent the installation of the missiles.

Under a Greek-Cypriot defense agreement, any Turkish military action on Cyprus is considered an attack on Greek sovereign territory and would trigger a war.

The east Mediterranean island has been split into Greek and Turkish sectors since 1974, when Turkey invaded and occupied its northern third to ostensibly protect its minority in the wake of an abortive coup by supporters of union with Greece.

A northern breakaway Turkish Cypriot state is only recognized by Ankara.

Pangalos said Greece was ready "for any development that will defuse tensions in the Aegean Sea. We do not construct tension and do not prop up our policies on tension."

Turkey has said it fears that Greece is attempting to turn Cyprus into a Greek island and plans to buy missiles, other armaments and set up military bases are a threat to the Turkish Cypriot community.

Bavarian city panics over toxic cloud

MEMMINGEN, Germany (AP) – Nine people were hurt, schools were closed and fearful residents in this Bavarian city stayed home yesterday to avoid a toxic cloud caused by a factory fire.

An unidentified 35-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of setting fire to a chemical factory outside this city of 81,000 people.

Smoke billowed from the factory and formed into a cloud containing of ammonia and hydrocyanic acid that started to drift toward the city, police said.

Police told Memmingen residents to stay in their homes and keep their doors and windows shut as 300 firefighters sought to put out the blaze.

Three schools were closed and four houses near the factory were evacuated. The all-clear came after six hours when the toxic cloud dispersed.

Seven police officers and two firefighters had to be treated for smoke and toxic fume inhalation, police said.

Defense: Simpson victim of tampering

SANTA MONICA (AP) — A defense attorney told jurors yesterday that O.J. Simpson was a victim of "corruption, contamination, planting and tampering."

Working to dismantle the evidence in the wrongful death case against the actor and former football star, attorney Robert Blasier said the survivors of Simpson's slain ex-wife and her friend have pinned their case on inaccurate facts and tainted evidence.



O.J. Simpson (Reuter)

"We have maintained from the very beginning of this case that you can't rely on this physical evidence. ... What you picked up off the ground was not necessarily" what went to the crime lab, he said. "That's what this whole case is about."

"We have a picture of corruption, contamination, planting and tampering," he said.

The families of Ron Goldman and Nicole Brown Simpson blame Simpson for the June 12, 1994, deaths and want the jury to find him liable and award millions in damages. In October 1995, Simpson was acquitted of murdering the two.

The pace of the trial slowed a bit Thursday after defense attorney Robert Baker asked the judge for more time for closing arguments. The judge has long planned to be away from the courthouse Friday, so rebuttal by the plaintiffs' attorneys and jury instructions will be pushed back to Monday, with the jury getting the case Monday afternoon.

On Wednesday, Baker also told jurors Simpson was a victim of police wrongdoing, demonized by cynical attorneys bent on winning at all costs, and above all, innocent.

Baker contended Simpson had no motive to kill Ms. Simpson, no time to kill Ms. Simpson, no time even, in his busy work schedule, to stalk Ms. Simpson.

Everything from Simpson's demeanor before and after the killings to the sloppy way incriminating evidence was left lying around proves that the plaintiffs' theory makes no sense, Baker argued.

Baker spoke after plaintiffs' attorneys spent a day and a half imploring jurors to find Simpson, the former American football star, responsible, and to strip him of his fortune.

"This isn't a fight for justice, it's a fight for money," Baker said. "We have witnessed a character assassination. They want you to believe O.J. Simpson is a bad person."



Fred Goldman (Reuter)

Baker picked apart the plaintiff's time line for the killings and said it made no sense. He said Simpson would have to be a "bumbling idiot" to drop evidence at the crime scene and his estate while managing to dispose of the all-important bloody clothes, shoes and murder weapon.

Baker also suggested if Simpson had been the killer, he would not have driven to the scene in a large sport utility vehicle, which he described as "this big white elephant."

Baker accused the plaintiffs of playing on jurors' emotions with their final arguments, replete with poetry and stirring images of the victims in life and in death.

Earlier, spectators and family members wept quietly as plaintiffs attorneys played a videotape of a smiling, laughing Goldman and audiotapes of a frantic Ms. Simpson seeking help from police to save her from spousal abuse.

"True justice would be to see Ron Goldman walk through that door or Nicole Brown Simpson playing with her children," attorney Daniel Petrocelli said. "That is not going to happen. They are gone forever."

Only one in four Americans believe in Simpson's innocence, according to an Associated Press poll. Just 18 percent of whites – but 58 percent of blacks – think his acquittal 15 months ago was the right verdict.

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of our dear aunt
BETTY SHELINSKY ז"ל
from Chicago, Illinois
The Barach, Firestone, and Levy families
We express our condolences to the Barach and Klein families abroad.

Yeshivat Aish HaTorah,
The Jerusalem Fellowships
mourn the tragic passing of
GREG LEWIS
and express our sincere condolences to the family.
המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM
THE ALEXANDER SILBERMAN INSTITUTE OF LIFE SCIENCES
To **Millie and Jerry Sudarsky**
Please accept our deep sorrow and condolences on the loss of your daughter
DANA

The consecration of the *matzevot* for our mother ב"ה
RACHEL (RAY) GUTTENTAG ז"ל
and our father
GEDALIAH DAVID GUTTENTAG ז"ל
(reinterred from Newcastle-on-Tyne)
will take place next Friday, **January 31** at 10 a.m.
at Sanhedria Cemetery.
Guttentag and Steinberg families

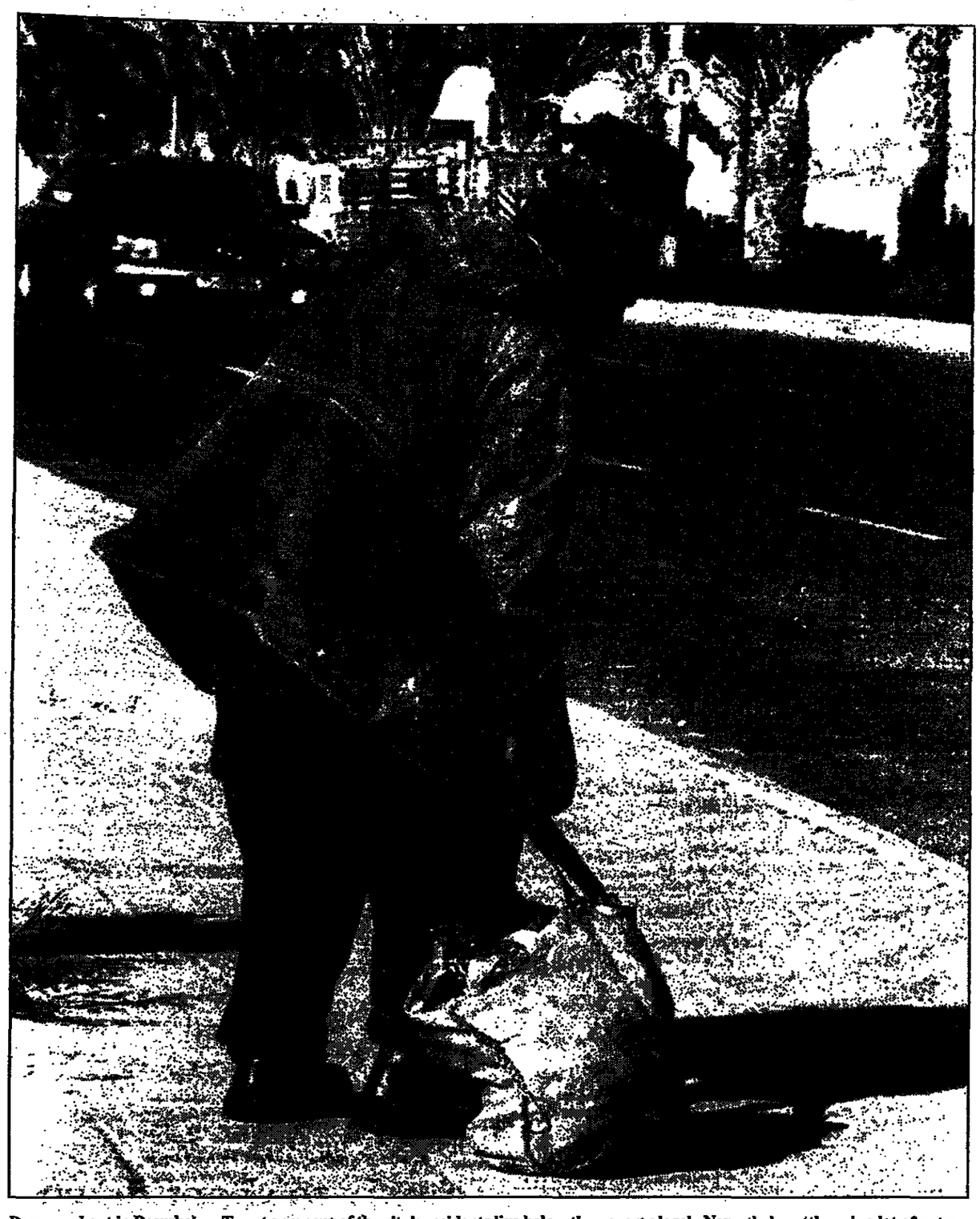
SYBIL KAPLAN
passed away in Los Angeles on January 13, 1997, after a long illness.
Remembered by her children Aba, Phillip, Jillian, and her in-laws and grandchildren.

On the occasion of the unveiling of the monument for our beloved father
Rabbi MEIR BOGNER צ"ל
of Washington, D.C.
Family and friends will gather at Har Hamenuhot Cemetery on Sunday, January 26, 1997 (18 Shvat 5757).
We will meet at the entrance gate at approximately 2:20 p.m.
A bus to the cemetery will leave from Yeshivat Knesset Yehuda, Sanhedria Hamurhevet, at 2 p.m.
For transportation arrangements please call 02-581-9898.
The Family

On the third yahrzeit of
Rabbi JEROME POMERANTZ ז"ל
We will hold a memorial service on Friday, January 31, 1997, 10:30 a.m., at Har Tamir, Givat Shaul, Jerusalem.
The Family

On the *shloshim* of the passing of our dear mother
BETTY GORDON ז"ל
(widow of **Haim** ז"ל)
a memorial service will take place, in the presence of Chief Rabbi Yisrael Lau, on January 27, 1997 (19 Shvat 5757) at 8 p.m., at the Beit Yitzchak Synagogue, Nerot Shabbat, Ramot, Jerusalem.
Mourned by her children:
Oizer and Leah Zelwer
Moshe and Vicki Gordon
and families

هكذا من الاصل



Down and out in Beersheba. Twenty percent of the city's residents live below the poverty level. Nevertheless, 'there is a lot of potential here,' insists David Cohen, head of the Daled neighborhood committee. (Sarit Uziely)

Over 10 percent of Israelis live below the poverty line. **Judith Sudilovsky** reports from Beersheba

The poor among us

Yossi Abuhatzera is 13 years old and doesn't own a ball – his parents, Rutie and David, can't afford to buy him one. He says he wants to be a soccer player when he grows up but his parents don't have the NIS 300 needed for him to join the local soccer league, at the Beersheba neighborhood Daled community center, let alone the additional NIS 350 to buy the team uniform.

Instead of going out and playing soccer with the neighborhood boys, he prefers to stay inside the house. In their cruelty, the other boys tease Yossi by not allowing him to play with their ball. Even in a poor neighborhood like Daled, there is a hierarchy of poverty.

"I stay here and help my mom," Yossi said. He is wearing blue sweat pants and a faded green T-shirt. "I don't like going outside with my friends. They laugh at me because of my clothes. They laugh at the clothes my father wears. They all laughed at me because I didn't get any gold for my bar mitzva. It makes me feel bad."

When he talks about not being able to buy a ball and how the other children treat him, his eyes begin twitching nervously.

Rutie has back, arm and leg problems and has been unable to work for several years. David, a former drug addict who served time in prison, can't find a job. They and their five children live off a total NIS 2,800 they receive from the National Insurance Institute, including their child allowance.

They haven't paid their NIS 65 electricity bill for four months and the electric company has threatened to cut them off. It is so long since they paid their water bill they are NIS 2,200 in arrears. There are days when Rutie doesn't have money to buy diapers for her one-year-old, so she tears up sheets to use instead. There is a bowl of fresh fruit on the kitchen table, but bread and chocolate spread is the main staple of their diet. Rutie has stopped eating dinner altogether so there will be enough food for her children. On Fridays, they have chicken and sometimes a neighbor sends over some rice and potatoes.

"In my worst dreams I never thought I would be living like this. I wanted a better life," said Rutie, who since the age of 12 lived in institutions and foster homes.

Her father was recently hospitalized in Holon but she doesn't have the money to pay for the bus fare to visit him. She doesn't have a telephone so she can't even call to find out about his condition. "Every day I think about how I am going to get out of this and I have no answers. In front of my neighbors I can laugh and smile, but I cry all night. I want my children to have normal clothes and to eat like they should. I want them to study and get a good education so they can find good jobs."

Rutie has stopped eating dinner so there will be enough food for her children.

The Abuhatzeras are among the 208,000 poor families living in Israel. According to a report released by the National Insurance Institute, that is an increase of only 3,000 families since 1994. In 1995, the report said, there were a total of 738,000 poor people in Israel, including 329,000 children. The numbers in 1994 were 671,000 and 285,000.

According to the survey the cities with the highest level of poverty were Bnei Brak, Jerusalem and Beersheba, where 37.7 percent, 24.8% and 20.2% of the people live below the poverty level, respectively. In Bnei Brak almost half (46.1%) of the children live in conditions of poverty. Petah Tikva had the lowest level of poverty amongst individuals with 7.1%, with Ramat Gan (8.4%) and Rishon Lezion (8.9%) the second and third lowest.

For the first time the survey included the non-Jewish sectors of the population living in villages with fewer than 10,000 inhabitants, which were previously not studied and which usually have a lower standard of living. Despite the inclusion of this group, the percentage of poor families declined from 18 in 1994 to 16.8 in 1995, said the report. The decrease is even greater – 16.4% – if this new group is excluded from the numbers, with the number of poor families going down from 205,000 to 196,000.

IT IS the first decrease in the poverty level in six years, the report said. According to the report the increase in the number of children living under the poverty level grew due to the fact that the non-Jewish population added to the study tend to have many children.

The level of poverty amongst the elderly decreased from 25.1% in 1994 to 23.5% in 1995. Amongst wage earners poverty slightly increased from 7.2% to 7.8%, mainly because of the inclusion in the survey of wage earners in Arab villages.

Amongst the non-Jewish sector the poverty level decreased steeply according to the survey, from 38.5% in 1994 to 31.2% in 1995. The decrease was due mainly to the decision to give child allowances to all families regardless of their army service and also the influence of the new "war on poverty" plan. Poverty amongst immigrants also declined from 24.3% to 22.1%.

Single-parent families experienced the largest decrease in poverty level going from 36.8% in 1994 to 25.7% in 1995, a one-third decrease. This is also a result of the war on poverty which allocated an up-to-50% increase of funds to these families. On the other hand, the poverty level amongst families with many children increased from

Continued on Page 12

Bnei Brak's poverty lies in its birthrate

The high poverty rate in Bnei Brak may not come as a surprise to those who look at the size of families and the number of men who study rather than work. But the residents of this mainly religious city see children as a blessing and their numbers increase every year.

Most families have at least four children, the majority have six or seven, but there are also more than a few families with more than 18 children – one family has 23 children. The idea of birth control is not an option for these religious Jews, said Bnei Brak municipal social worker Shimon Millrod.

"It is a population which will continue to grow and we have to deal with it like all others," he said. "We have to support the birth rate, it is the goal of Israel."

Most men continue their studies through their early 30s, and while the women study to be teachers there is a limit to the number of teachers who can find employment. In addition, many women need to stay home to care for their children.

While the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs does offer various employment courses they are not suitable for the population of Bnei Brak because of the times and the locations where they are held, said Shlomit Gidron, director of the Bnei Brak Department of Social Services.

She would like to see courses in computer programing, accounting, flower arranging and small business management held in Bnei Brak itself in the evenings within the framework of the religious society. The municipality has held a few such courses but its funds are spread very thin, she said.

"You can't come to a society and tell them their traditions are not OK. This is a society which is completely different from others in Israel and it is a growing sector," said Gidron, who is secular. "By providing enrichment programs [for employment opportunities] we hope to break out of the circle of poverty."

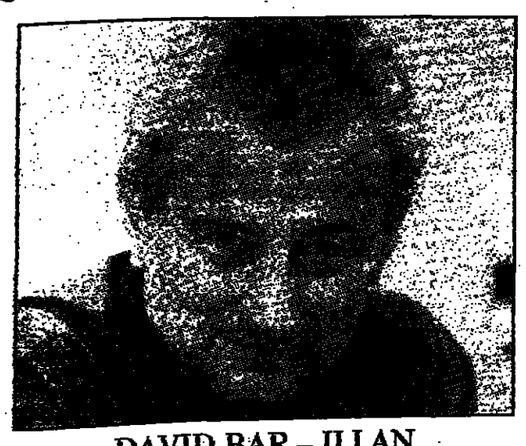
Nurit and Yosef Tzarfati live in a one-room apartment with their seven children, who range in age from 14 to two. Nurit is in the last months of her eighth pregnancy. When the children come home from school they are under each other's feet as they crowd into the small room which is used as their living space and bedroom. When it rains the narrow service balcony Nurit uses as additional space gets flooded because the tin roof leaks and she has to close off the area so the water doesn't reach the rest of the apartment.

They live off NIS 2,670 a month they receive from the National Insurance Institute. Yosef, who comes from a religious family but lived a secular lifestyle, served in the army so they receive a higher child allowance rate than families with fathers who did not serve. He has been looking for a kollel to study in, which sometimes also provides additional funds to students, but has not been accepted anywhere yet.

"We live with faith in God," said Nurit.

Most days when her children come home from school she feeds them vegetable soup; for a treat they get burekas. On Fridays they have fish. Neighborhood committees also provide poor families like the Tzarfatis with some food for Shabbat dinner. *J.S.*

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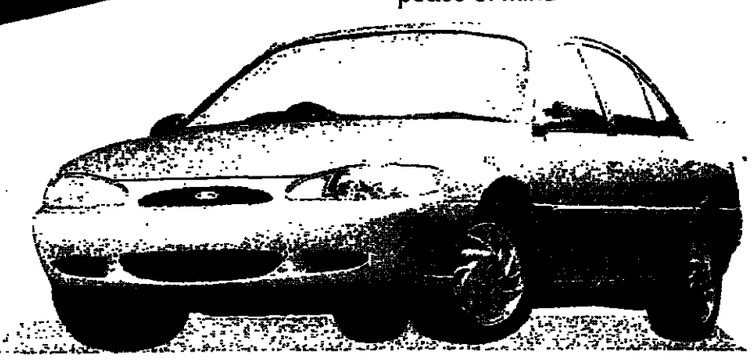
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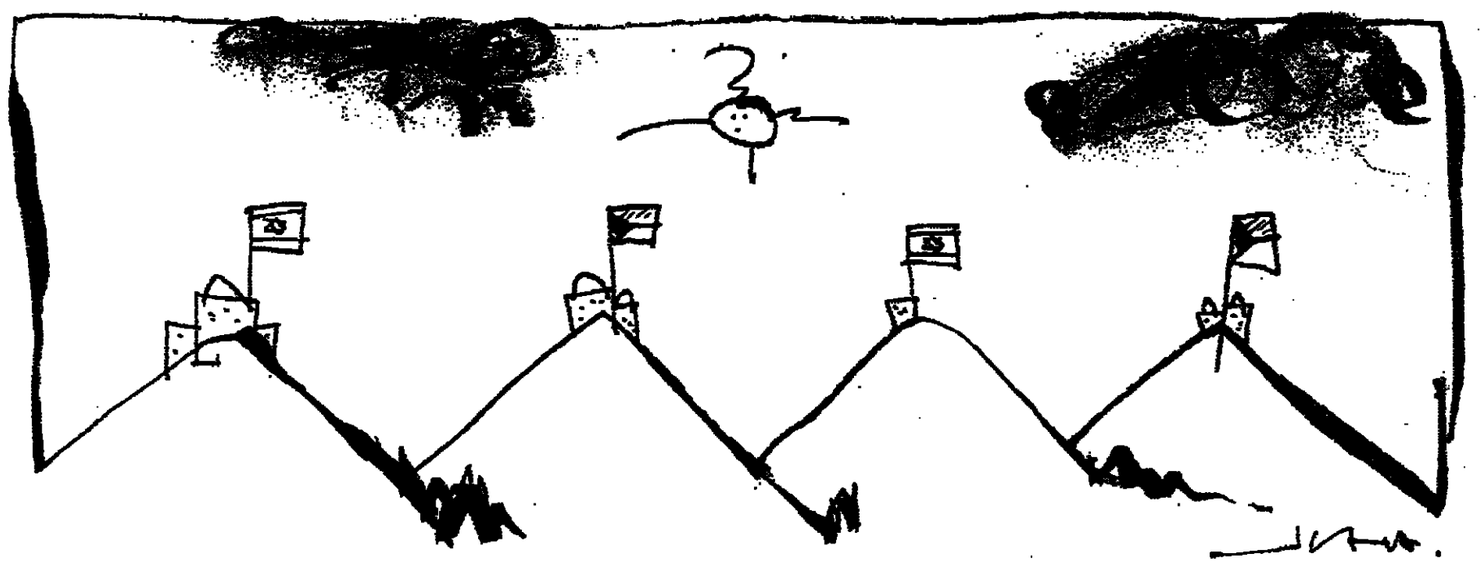


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The road ahead

Israel is beginning to grapple with final-status issues, **Steve Rodan** reports

Cabinet Secretary Danny Naveh compares Israel's situation today to a man walking in a cramped tunnel. He tries to stretch and bumps his head against the ceiling. He tries to turn around and he cuts his arm on the sharp rocks. That tunnel, Naveh says, is the set of Israeli-Palestinian agreements negotiated by the previous Labor Party-led governments that severely limits Israel's room for maneuver and is forcing Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu to proceed down the Oslo road.

"I don't know what were the intentions of those who drafted this agreement," Netanyahu says. "Maybe they thought they wouldn't encounter these problems."

In the aftermath of the Hebron pullout accord, Netanyahu's government is bracing itself for more problems with the Palestinians and their Arab supporters. Sources close to the prime minister have privately acknowledged they had not aimed for a redeployment timetable that leaves nearly a year between the final and most significant IDF redeployment in the West Bank and the conclusion of final-status negotiations.

As a result, Netanyahu and his aides stress that the Palestinians will not have any say over the extent of Israeli redeployment. Instead, the Palestinians will have to wait until final-status talks for Israel to consider their demands. "The most important thing there [in the Hebron accord] is American agreement that only we determine redeployment and define the military locations," Netanyahu says.

His aides also expect tense negotiations over the final status of the territories and Palestinian demands for Jerusalem, return of refugees to Israel and an international corridor through Israel that would link the West Bank and Gaza Strip. It's a tall order for a prime minister who until September was convinced, his aides say, that negotiating the Hebron accord would be a matter of the Palestinians understanding the limits of their power. Since then, the prime minister has formed guidelines on final status and aides say they have started working on opening and fallback positions in the final-status negotiations with the Palestinians, scheduled to begin in March.

Netanyahu says the first principle of ensuring progress in Israeli-Palestinian talks is mutuality. Both sides have to honor their commitments. "The situation is over when Israel gives and the Palestinians take," he says.

During what remains of the interim phase, the government intends to give as little as possible, hoping to retain a majority of the territories after the three further redeployments.

THE FIRST redeployment, scheduled for the first week of March, the aides say, will result in a minor Israeli pullback of perhaps 2 to 3 percent of the territories. The second redeployment might involve about double that amount.

There are two possibilities, the aides say. One is to convert parts of Area B, which are under Palestinian civilian control, into Area A, where the Palestinian Authority has full control. Another option is to convert a portion of Area C, under full Israeli control, into Area B, where the IDF has only overall security responsibility. Security officials are said to prefer the former option, arguing that this would leave the areas surrounding Jewish settlements and IDF installations intact.

The question for Netanyahu is whether this would ensure Palestinian cooperation. During the last few weeks, the Palestinian Authority has orchestrated protests by Palestinian farmers in Area C. The more benign demonstrations involved unauthorized planting of trees on state land. In other cases, Fatah activists, along with foreign volunteers, have vandalized property belonging to Jewish settlements.

Some government officials are concerned that any Israeli redeployment will spark a dispute with the PA. "The big problem is that the Palestinians have been encouraged by the previous Labor government," one aide says. "If you look at the IDF maps, there is very little flexibility in further redeployment. There's a lot of bone."

The Palestinians couldn't agree more, providing a sharply different interpretation of the US guarantees on redeployment, the deadline of which has been set for mid-1998. "Under the agreements signed with the previous Israeli government, in the end Israel will have to withdraw from 99 percent of the territory of the West Bank," Nabil Abu Rudeineh, Arafat's spokesman says. "The American guarantee confirms this."

The Netanyahu government's challenge is to respond with a liberal interpretation of redeployment, the last of which is to leave Israel, according to the 1995 Taba accord, with only the Jewish settlements and "specified military locations." Government officials say they will stress another section of the accord granting Israel responsibility for the security of Israelis and "confronting the threat of terrorism." They will argue that that responsibility requires a large buffer area between Israeli and Palestinian communities in Judea and Samaria.

"The interim accord doesn't define what a settlement or IDF installation is," a government source close to the prime minister says. "It could include areas for military exercises. It doesn't also include borders, which is for final status."

Another aide goes further. He hopes that the government will draft its positions on final status before the last two further redeployments. This way, Netanyahu will be certain what areas are crucial to Israel's security and cannot be ceded in any agreement. "Look, let's face it. This is not about redeployment," the aide says. "This is about withdrawal. And you can't get back anything once you give it up."

ONE GOVERNMENT source raises the following scenario: The Palestinians might argue that Israel will have to withdraw from all areas without settlements or IDF locations. But the Israelis would have a counter-argument: that the withdrawal would be limited to Palestinian towns and villages. "The same argument that says that 70 percent of Jewish settlers live on 10 percent of the land has a corollary," the source says. "And that is that 90 percent of the Palestinians live on 50 percent of the land. So, why should they get more?"

It's an approach, officials say, that does not distinguish between security and sovereignty. An example is the Jordan Valley, an area that both Likud and Labor parties agree has strategic importance to Israel. Many in Labor such as Yossi Beilin would first urge that the Palestinians have full control of the Jordan Valley. Then, to address Israel's security, they would advise an IDF installation and Palestinian demilitarization, which is precisely what was recommended in Beilin's understandings with the PLO's Mahmoud Abbas, otherwise known as Abu Mazen.

Netanyahu's solution is the opposite. First, Israel would annex the Jordan Valley to ensure Israel's security. Then, arrangements would be made so that the Palestinians could maintain access and freedom of movement. "For us, it's not a question of security but sovereignty," a Netanyahu aide says. "It's a question of first defining the territory. Then you place a political framework around your vital needs."

The Palestinians, however, have a counter-strategy. Take the issue of further redeployments. They might have accepted Israel's assertion that it will determine IDF locations in the interim stage. But those same installations are also the subject of final-status talks on the future of the territories that begin in several weeks. As a result, the Palestinians could insist that the size and location of IDF installations be among the first topic of the talks on final status, coming more than a year before the deadline of the third further redeployment.

THE PALESTINIANS have done their homework, Israeli sources say. The talks on the Hebron accord demonstrated how much the Palestinians have advanced as tacticians since the early days of Israeli-PLO negotiations. "The Palestinians would come in one week with one set of people and the following week a whole new set would come who didn't know what their predecessors were doing," recalls Lt.-Col. Daniel Reisner, who has participated in all of the negotiations with the Palestinians since the Declaration of Principles. "Now the Palestinians are very well organized. They went through a quick process. They have a bureaucracy that rivals ours."

But the Israelis have the edge when it comes to drafting positions on the final status of the territories. Officials have stacks of plans to examine, some of them dating from even before the 1967 war. Then, IDF planners maintained that Israel would need 15 percent of Judea and Samaria to ensure the safety of the state – even before these areas were captured in battle.

The idea then was to break the isolation of Jerusalem. So, the IDF planners prior to 1967 envisioned Israeli annexation of a corridor from Mount Zion to the Western Wall in Jerusalem's Old City. In addition, Israel would annex territory from Beit Horon in the north to Gush Etzion in the south to join Jerusalem to the rest of the country.

Today, Israeli sources involved in final-status positions speak of annexing no less than 30 percent of Judea and Samaria. This would

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America as a middleman: A mixed bag

US assistance in mediating the Hebron deal was at times helpful but also debilitating, **Barry Rubin** writes

During three months of negotiations over Hebron, the US intermediaries played a role like the psychiatrist in the lightbulb joke: How many psychiatrists does it take to change a lightbulb? Just one, is the answer. But the lightbulb must want to change.

In other words, while American mediators helped bridge wide gaps between the two sides, Israel and the Palestinian Authority did want to achieve a Hebron agreement. They simply put a higher priority on first seeing whether stalling and making new demands could gain more concessions from the other side – tactics that the US role made it easier for them to do.

On one hand, PA chairman Yasser Arafat was more guilty of this behavior. He sought to show Palestinians his toughness at the bargaining table. Perhaps more important, Arafat wanted to stretch things out because he perceived – perhaps not entirely accurately – that the longer it took to achieve a Hebron redeployment, the more unfavorable Israel's international situation became.

On the other hand though, it was Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu who demanded that the Hebron agreement be renegotiated in the first place. Israel's leader was under tremendous pressure to prove to coalition critics and the general public alike that he got a better deal than his predecessor.

US mediation seemed like an ideal solution for a situation where both sides wanted someone to keep the strife from getting out of hand but, at the same time, deeply mistrusted each other and were ready to bicker over every word of text and centimeter of soil. This will be especially true since the US government assured Israel that it would determine where withdrawals would take place, while promising the Palestinians that the redeployment will be very extensive.

The Hebron agreement will be portrayed as a great American achievement. Indeed, US Special Envoy Dennis Ross and his key aide Aaron David Miller deserve high praise for their efforts. And yet, amid the celebrations, there are two points that will be generally unnoticed. First, having proved indispensable for this round of talks, the US will probably be involved in every future Israeli-Palestinian discussion. While it seems horrifying to realize after such a tough time writing an agreement that only resolves the Hebron issue, the massive labor of the last three months equals about 1 percent of the task US intermediaries will face over the next two years.

Now reengaged, the US will be dragged into every detail of bargaining. This includes the detailed delineation of three separate Israel pullbacks from West Bank rural areas, the designation of every Palestinian prisoner to be released, and many more such items on the agenda. US officials are going to be racking up hundreds of thousands of miles in shuttling around the region during the coming months.

Secondly, the need for American mediation can be said to mark a big step backward for the peace process.

One of the peace process's most critical breakthroughs was that after decades of third-party mediation, Israel and the Palestinians were finally able to engage in direct talks. After years of seeking victory through violence – or trying to circumvent Israel by undermining its Western support – Arafat was forced by evolving circumstances, cumulative experience, and dire necessity to recognize Israel. After Arafat finally met conditions he had laid down 20 years earlier, former prime minister Yitzhak Rabin recognized the PLO.

The 1993 Oslo agreement was concluded not only without any direct US role, but even without Washington's knowledge. Only afterwards was the agreement signed on the White House lawn to obtain American sponsorship and help. The same pattern held for all the ensuing accords to implement the peace process's first two stages.

Israel insisted on direct negotiations without intermediaries in order to ensure Arab and Palestinian recognition was being given without reservations. But also there were good reasons for doing so in terms of the bargaining process itself. Solutions are possible only if Israel and the Palestinians focus on finding the balance between their preferences and needs, and what the other side can conceivably accept.

If given no choice between finding a compromise or seeing the process break down into massive violence, Arafat and Netanyahu will be forced to resolve remaining differences over interim issues. But instead, the American factor becomes an end in itself. The US becomes either an audience before which each side puts on an act or a judge to whom each can appeal. Rather than being forced to hammer out a deal between themselves, the two leaders have the distraction and more pleasant alternative of seeking new American rewards, running off to Washington as honored guests, complaining about the other side's behavior like quarreling siblings whining to parents, and posturing in order to mobilize international support. Rather than propose an arrangement the other side can accept, both parties can put forward demands which they hope Washington will pressure the other side into conceding.



Although US Special Envoy Dennis Ross (left), shown conversing with Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, deserves high praise for his efforts in sealing the Hebron deal, America's overall mediation scorecard does not rate so high.

Consequently, both Israel and the PA feel partly freed from having to worry about their own brinkmanship. Delays, disputes, and lower mutual credibility will not bring catastrophe, the leaders reason, because the US will bail them out of any crisis. This assumed safety net could fail in the future, bringing a real dead-end for the negotiating process.

GIVEN THAT situation, US involvement may also have contributed to the length and difficulty of the Hebron talks. The Hebron agreement has become redefined from a step designed to benefit Israel and the PA into being a gift to the US. As the weeks slipped by, Arafat designated it respectively as a pre-election, Christmas, and New Year's present for Clinton.

After Arafat would otherwise have despaired at dragging any more concessions out of Netanyahu, he could still hope to gain more from the US itself or through American cajoling of Israel to give up more in order to seal the bargain.

The final main step to secure the Hebron deal symbolizes both aspects of this dilemma. Only when the US guaranteed that Israel would stage further withdrawals within an agreed timetable was the agreement finalized. This can be said to show how

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On a mission from God

Australian millionaire Habadnik Rabbi Joseph Gutnick is here to express his dismay at Netanyahu's signing of the Hebron agreement, but he has also vowed to cease his support of the Jewish settlement there if Netanyahu asks him to. Herb Keinon spoke to him



Joseph Gutnick believes that he has 'a right to donate to Jewish causes in Israel. I am a Jew, and things that happen here affect what happens to Jews in Australia, Argentina and Brazil.' (Reuter)

If Joseph Gutnick, the patron of the "Netanyahu is good for the Jews" campaign of the the last election, were to rephrase that slogan today, it would likely be along the lines of "Netanyahu will probably turn out fine for the Jews, we think."

For the staunchly right-wing Gutnick, a multi-millionaire Habad hassid who made his fortune in the gold mines of his native Australia, the Hebron redeployment was definitely not good for the Jews. As such, his unequivocal support for Netanyahu, summed up in that controversial campaign slogan, has been replaced by a degree of tentativeness, albeit diplomatically couched.

Gutnick is here on a two-week visit primarily to receive an honorary award at a dinner in Shilo (where Netanyahu is the featured speaker) where he is financing the construction of a building for the hesder yeshiva.

Gutnick was asked point blank if, today, he feels Netanyahu is indeed good for the Jews. He replied, "They [the critics] said that this slogan was racist, against Arabs. But now we see that Netanyahu is good for the Arabs. We are confident that he will also be good for the Jews."

"I have a lot of confidence in the prime minister," he continues. "I feel we have a lot of common ideals. I think he will be good for the Jews. I would be disappointed and disillusioned if he will not act favorably towards the settlers. I have in no way lost my confidence in him. I think he made a mistake but that he has a lot of good will."

In other words: Netanyahu will probably turn out fine for the Jews, we think. A convincing slogan it isn't.

Would Gutnick support Netanyahu again, or is he, perhaps, interested in backing a nascent movement to draft and prop up an alternative candidate on the right to challenge Netanyahu in three years, say someone like Ze'ev (Beni) Begin? "I'm not worried about the year 2000," Gutnick says. "I'm worried about tomorrow. I hope he [Netanyahu] will prove that he is the right prime minister. I have not yet lost confidence."

Some may respond: "Who cares if Gutnick has lost confidence in the prime minister? He doesn't even live here, for goodness sake." But Gutnick, 44 and the father of 10, was the sugar-daddy behind the Habad campaign for Netanyahu in the run-up to the elections. This campaign and its "Netanyahu is good for the Jews" slogan has taken on near mythic proportions, with more than a few in Labor and the media referring to it as the factor that pushed Netanyahu over the top.

The left, which is no orphan when it comes to raising funds abroad for candidates or political causes in Israel, tends to look at Gutnick as the nefarious personification of the Diaspora Jew – and he a hassid to boot – meddling in internal Israeli affairs. But Gutnick, an ordained rabbi, makes no apologies, neither for his support of settlement causes, or for his support of Netanyahu. "I have a right to donate to Jewish causes in Israel. I am a Jew, and things that happen here affect what happens to Jews in Australia, Argentina and Brazil. There is nothing in the law that says I can't campaign for something that we think is important for the Jews. It is legitimate to donate money to settlers, and I have the right to donate money as I please. Israel was built on the UIA and UJA. If people have a right to give to the university in Beersheba, I have a right to give money to settlements."

But should an outsider be able to play such a big role in an election campaign? Gutnick stresses that the money he gave was not to the Likud, but to Habad, which decided on the campaign because it felt "a weak Israeli government would be a danger to Israel.

"Every Jew has a part in Israel," he says, taking umbrage with the "outsider" inference in the question, and an attempt to compare his campaign contributions to the Indonesian millionaire who gave to Bill Clinton's campaign – something that caused a mini-scandal in the US. "I give money," Gutnick replies. "If the court says I don't have a right, that's different. Some people may not like it, but some people don't like many things. It is my democratic right, as long as it is good for the Jews."

By saying that Netanyahu has been "good for the Arabs," Gutnick was referring to Netanyahu's decision to continue along the Oslo path, and to go through with the Hebron redeployment. The withdrawal from 80 percent of Hebron, says Gutnick – whose name graces the main visitors' center adjacent to the Machpela Cave – is "one of the most tragic moments since the establishment of Israel. I think it is a step backward, a tragic and sad day. We look forward to things moving more positively in the future, and to a time when the Jews will be able to expand in areas under our control."

"We want to see concrete moves in Hebron so that the people there should not be so despondent."
—Joseph Gutnick

The settlers in Hebron, says Gutnick, one of the primary patrons of the settlement there, "are a fact of life. If you frustrate them, there won't be peace. They will agitate; peace is two-way – especially when you are talking about one of our four holy cities."

The solution, he says, is to begin immediately building in the Jewish part of Hebron. "We want to see concrete

Continued on Page 20

Should Israel let its prisoners go?



Evelyn Gordon investigates whether a general amnesty should be granted, allowing the incarcerated to share in the country's 50th birthday celebrations

Like an unwanted relative who cannot be left off the guest list, the Great Pardon Debate casts its shadow over the festivities every time Israel throws a party.

With the country about to celebrate its golden jubilee next year, the debate is back on: Should this milestone in Israel's history be marked by a general amnesty? The issue has been raised at almost every major anniversary, as well as on various anniversaries of the reunification of Jerusalem.

Only twice has a something close to a general amnesty actually been issued, however. In 1949, to celebrate the founding of the state, and in 1967, to celebrate the recapture of Jerusalem. But even these amnesties excepted certain serious crimes, including security offenses.

Dr. Leslie Sebba of the Hebrew University's Institute of Criminology said the general amnesty is meant to be a way of ensuring that everyone, even the least fortunate, shares in the national celebration. It can also be seen as an expression of national self-confidence, he said – a way of saying the country is strong enough that it can afford to be magnanimous even with its criminals.

"If the nation as a whole feels that everyone should participate in the joy, [an amnesty] is a very lovely expression of this," said Prof. Leon Sheleff of Tel Aviv University's law school.

However, many legal experts say the price a country pays for this magnanimity is much too high. Largely because of this, then attorney-general Aharon Barak persuaded the government not to issue an amnesty in 1978 (Israel's 30th birthday), and the government also decided against amnesties in 1982 and 1988 (the 15th anniversary of the liberation of Jerusalem and the 40th anniversary of the founding of the state).

"Experience shows that a very large proportion of the people who benefit from a [general] amnesty go back to committing crimes."
—Hebrew University criminal law Prof. Mordechai Kremnitzer

Instead, these events were marked by a more generous granting of pardons on an individual basis, with special committees set up to examine the pardon requests, and by erasing the criminal record of anyone who had stayed clean for the past 10 years.

"Experience shows that a very large proportion of the people who benefit from a [general] amnesty go back to committing crimes," explained Mordechai Kremnitzer, a professor of criminal law at Hebrew University. "This means you are exposing the public to injury at the hands of these people. It also makes the entire legal system seem not very serious. All it takes is some event in the country's history [to obtain a release from jail]."

Periodic amnesties also detract from the deterrent value of the criminal process, he said – especially for people convicted close to some major event.

Former attorney-general Michael Ben-Yair, in a legal opinion on the subject written just before he left office this week, noted that while no research was ever done on the 1949 amnesty, a study was done on the 1967 amnesty. In 1967, he said, 501 prisoners were released outright, plus an unknown quantity of other prisoners who were released after their sentences were reduced by 25%.

In addition, 9,196 police investigations into minor crimes and 15,376 investigations into more serious crimes were closed; another 6,445 cases involving traffic accidents were closed, including 5,115 in which someone was injured; and 34,500 traffic tickets were canceled. (In 1949, 65 convicted prisoners and 51 people under arrest were released, 880 indictments were canceled and 1,791 cases involving traffic violations were closed.)

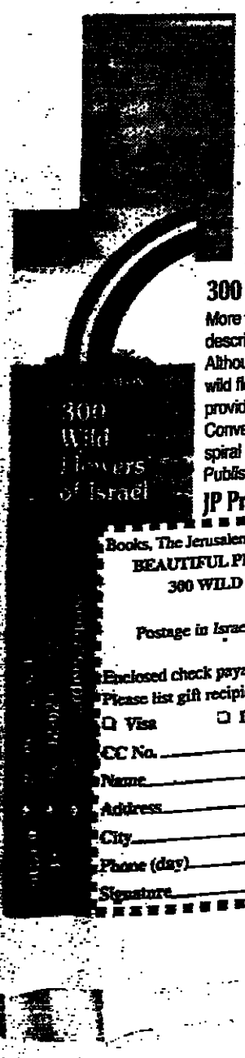
According to the study, 57% of the 501 prisoners who received amnesties in 1967 were convicted again within three years, and 75% had been convicted again within five years. There was also a significant rise in property crimes and disturbances of the peace in the second half of 1967, the studies found. Ben-Yair said it is not coincidental that over half of those pardoned were guilty of either property crimes or disturbing the peace.

Sebba, the author of the study, noted that these statistics do not differ from those found in normal prisoner releases, however. He also examined a 500-person control group of prisoners released at the normal time, he said, and found that 57% of those prisoners were also back in jail within three years.

ANOTHER ISSUE Ben-Yair raised is that an amnesty can be traumatic for the victim. A national holiday, he said, is no justification for suddenly preferring the criminal's interest to that of either the victim or society as a whole, nor does it alter the reasons for which the criminal was put in jail to begin with.

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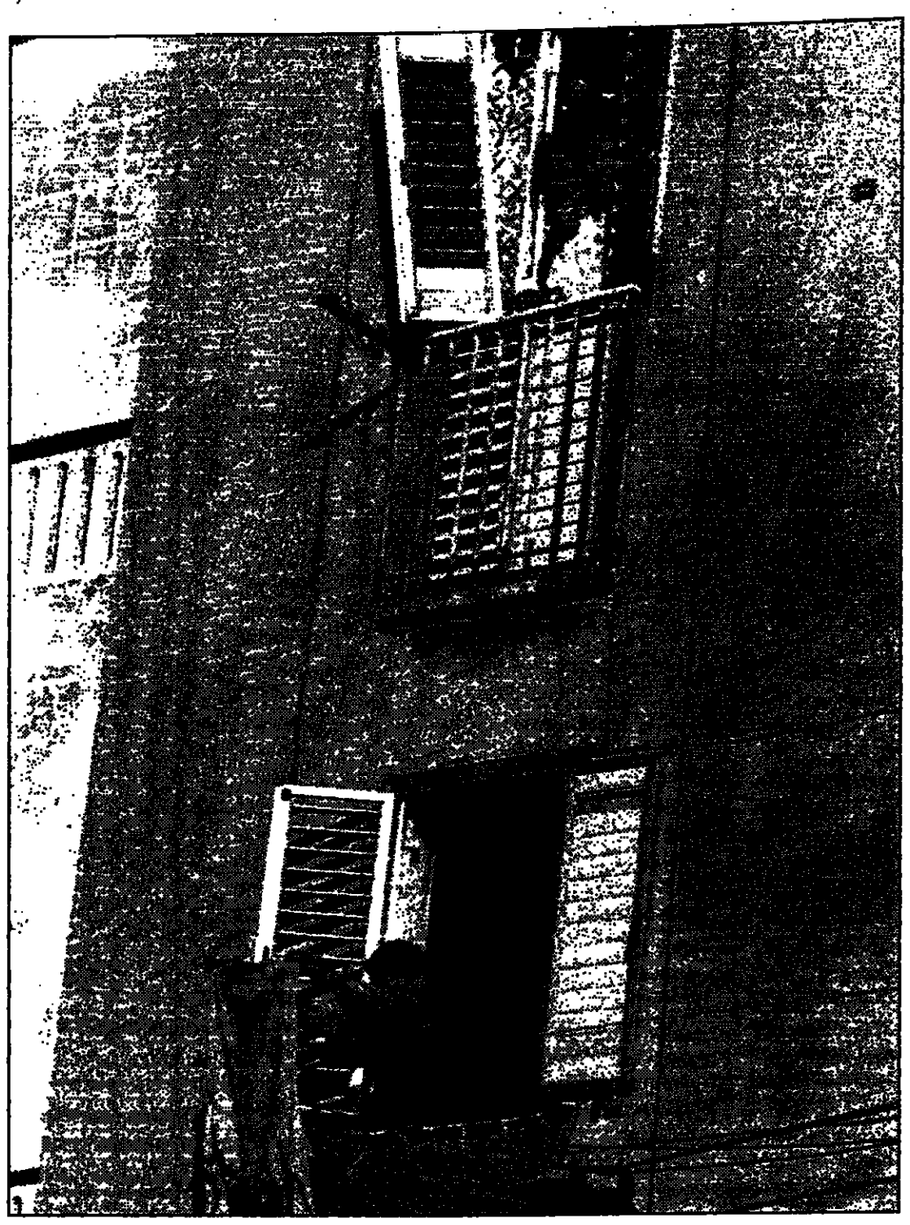
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Playgrounds are for prostitutes





(Clockwise from above left): Nili Michaeli finds little to feed her family. With her oldest daughter a drug addict with lupus, she worries about the fate of her youngest girl; life in a decaying Beersheba apartment building: 'Slowly things are being done'; a barefoot street waif plays among the garbage. Parents are afraid to send their children to playgrounds. (Sarit Uziely)

Continued from Page 9

37% in 1994 to 40% in 1995. The reason for this increase in numbers, according to the report, was the inclusion of rural Arab families in the survey since this population wasn't included in the war against poverty.

"The data I have presented until now shows a certain decline in the levels of poverty in Israel during 1995 and an improvement of division of incomes in the economy," said the National Insurance Institute director-general Yossi Tamir when he presented the report. "But despite these positive developments, the level of poverty in Israel is still high and we should not be satisfied with this level."

Poverty, he said, is not only an issue of income level but also of the standards of education, health and living conditions and social services offered to the public. It is a national struggle and a challenge which needs resources, thought, and first and foremost determination on the governmental level, he said.

The first step to achieve the goal was taken by the government's decision to set up the Public Council for Closing the Social Gap and War on Poverty, he said.

Still, despite the slightly optimistic picture the survey paints, in places like Beersheba's Daled and Bnei Brak, the decrease of poverty is barely noticeable. There is a dire shortage of funds on all sides – national and municipal – with cutbacks always imminent and no hope for change in sight.

According to David Cohen, the head of a neighborhood committee of one section of Daled, there are no after-school programs for some 90% of the neighborhood children: there are no libraries in the entire neighborhood; and one study showed that 23 percent of the students still did not have the necessary books for schools. Children like Yossi Abuhatzera spend their afternoons wandering the streets together with drug dealers and juvenile delinquents because they can't afford the classes offered by the community center and the municipality does not provide after-school programs.

Playgrounds have broken equipment and garbage is strewn in the sandboxes. The playgrounds are another haven for drug dealers and prostitutes and parents are afraid to let their children play in them, said Cohen, 27, an accountant who grew up in the neighborhood and still lives in his family apartment. He is now studying for his MBA at Tel Aviv University.

"Providing them with a good education is the answer. There is a lot of potential here," said Cohen. "Throwing money at them won't help. Maybe they'll have more money to buy food but it is not a long-term solution. I am worried about second- and third-generation poverty. Yossi is a good kid now but I am worried about what will happen to him in a few years."

THE MUNICIPALITY seems to be more interested in building newer, fancier neighborhoods while neglecting the older neighborhoods, Cohen charged. They sell prime land – including areas which used to be playgrounds or commercial centers – in the Daled neighborhood to developers to build housing for Beersheba University students who study a short walk away. This gives nothing to the neighborhood as the developers do not provide an infrastructure for the area and the students are merely transient residents who do not become involved with the community.

Because he is an accountant Cohen was able to read budget reports which indicated that the municipality still had some NIS 80,000 in their coffers given to them by the Ministry of Housing which were earmarked for restoration projects meant to have taken place in 1990, 1991 and 1993.

"Now they have started to move. Slowly things are being done," he said. One of the projects he initiated with the funds was the laying of a sidewalk for a row of small block houses which had only an uneven dirt road in front of them. The elderly residents used to be stranded in their homes when it rained and their front yards and road turned into a muddy pond.

Beersheba Municipality spokesman Yosef Amnon said he had heard about the allegations of extra money but denied that there were any surplus funds.

With donations he himself gathers Cohen tries to provide needy families with extra food and clothing. He was able to persuade the Montreal Jewish community to increase their financial support for scholarships for university students from the area by 50 percent and in return those students will help their community by providing after-school classes and extra tutoring for children from the neighborhood. Cohen said the municipal welfare department does its best with the little funds it has but there simply are not enough social workers to deal with the problems. There are families who have been working with the social workers for almost 20 years, he said.

"The municipality does a lot for these old neighborhoods but no matter how much we do it is not enough and more needs to be done. They are treated with love and warmth by the social workers," said Amnon. "Beersheba is growing and we have a lot of new neighborhoods, and yes, we are investing in good infrastructure there so that it will withstand even to the year 3000," he said optimistically.

He said the city plans to invest several thousand shekels from Mifal Hapayis to restore a sports court in front of a youth center.



Nili Michali, 38, of Daled, has three daughters and works as a seamstress. She divorced her drug-addict husband two years ago and is unable to stay afloat on the NIS 2,500 she receives monthly, partly from her salary and partly from her child allowance for her one daughter who is still a minor.

Her older daughter is a drug addict and sick with lupus, and she is worried that her second daughter, who did not get drafted into the army, will follow in the footsteps of her father and older sister. The girl is not functioning emotionally, refuses to look for work, and spends all her time watching television or out with friends, said Michali. She is being treated by a municipal social worker who is trying to get her drafted in order to put her in a structured framework.

"I know the law says I only have to take care of my children until they are 18 but what can I do, throw them out into the street?" said Michali.

"They are my daughters. The oldest is sick and I am afraid the second one will start using drugs too. I live now only for my youngest daughter. I never expected this from my life."

She could find a nighttime job to earn more money, she said, but she has no one to leave her six-year-old with. She said she has no time for friends, and at work she never talks about her problems. Only recently has she joined a support group for single parents and that has helped her open up.

"When I run into old friends I feel like they pity me and I don't like that. I don't like walking around feeling like I am pitiful," she said.

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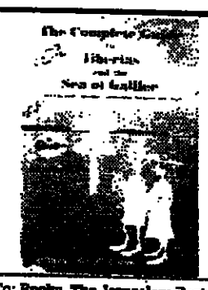
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ON THE AGENDA

Back to the ghetto

By AMOTZ ASA-EL

Decrying the Hebron Accord as the incarnation of "the destruction of Eretz Yisrael," various rabbis this week ordered the public – in the course of a demonstration outside the Machpela Cave – to rip their clothes, as we Jews do when mourning the loss of a family member.

Surely, to deem as "destroyed" a country teeming with apartment blocks, office buildings, factories, software houses, universities, schools, kindergartens, cities, villages, highways, interchanges, shopping malls and whatnot may sound a bit odd. Understandably, Middle Israel ignored it.

Yet, for two reasons, that cry deserves our attention.

First, because it reflects the genuine pain of people whose 30-year-old mystical euphoria – generated by the 1967 military victory – is now giving way to a post-Messianic hangover of the sort experienced by the Shabbateans after their 17th-century false prophet converted to Islam.

Secondly, and more significantly, that demonstration matters because the spirit expressed there reflects the kind of ghetto mindframe which Zionism so heroically tried to combat.

The ghetto, a gentile creation aimed at culturally marginalizing and residentially confining the Jews, ultimately evolved into a three-tiered structure which left the Jews physically, socially and mentally aloof from much of the world of which they were a part.

Having first been implemented in 16th-century Venice in order to accommodate and defend refugees who had come from Spain and Portugal, the Jewish ghetto ultimately spread across urban Europe. On the regional level it would later be "perfected" in Czarist Russia's Pale of Settlement, which not only caged the Jews into a legally defined region and blocked their access to major towns, but also restricted their engagement in free professions within those geographical confines.

Yet beyond its legal definition and technical dimensions, the ghetto also represented a state of mind which, as historian and sociologist Jacob Katz has shown in his studies, was shared by Jews and non-Jews alike, with each community tolerating the other's proximity only so long as the two remained strictly segregated.

So fierce had become the Jewish reluctance to freely mix, mingle and interact with the surrounding world that when the leaders of the French Revolution sought to emancipate the Jews, rabbinically-led communities petitioned to preserve the old order. And when millions of down-trodden Eastern European Jews flocked en masse to democratic America, most Orthodox rabbis ruled that staying put in the despotic Pale of Settlement was preferable to the New World's freedoms and temptations.

In short, tearing down the ghetto walls – just like keeping them intact had been in previous generations – was to be a bipartisan effort; both Jews and non-Jews had to cease to perceive each other as "guests" and "hosts."

TWO CENTURIES and one Holocaust later, assessing the successes and failures of Europe's emancipatory experiment can be very tricky, but one thing cannot be disputed: Zionism – having emerged in response to Europe's reluctance to fully accept its Jews – did not seek to abandon the emancipatory ideal, but on the contrary, it sought to carry the experiment beyond the horizon, where it could hopefully be best performed.

Little did most of Zionism's founding fathers realize that this region, too, would first refuse to digest the Jews as benign neighbors, rather than juicy prey. Their hope was that once free in their ancestral land, the Jews would finally find their rightful place among the nations.

Such thoughts often crossed my mind during nearly two decades of border patrolling as a soldier who repeatedly found himself driving, marching and crawling along fences anywhere between the Jordan Valley's scorching July heat and the Golan Heights' biting January frost.

Bearing in mind my European ancestry's plight in assorted ghettos, and its abrupt demise in Nazi death camps, I often asked myself what, actually, had Zionism achieved; after all, here I was back at square one, caged behind land mines, barbed wire and electric fences, rejected by my neighbors and yearning for my peaceful place under the sun.

My humble conclusion was, and remains, that Zionism's long-term goals had yet to be achieved, and that my most formidable enemy – like my ancestors' – was not what lay beyond the fence, but the fence itself. And that, in fact, is also the point at which Middle Israelis like this one part ways with those who see in the recent agreement a form of national "destruction."

One may contend that abandoning a certain hilltop, or exposing another strategic flank is dangerous. But to see "destruction" in a deal aimed at rationalizing relations with our neighbors smacks heavily of that time-honored rabbinical tradition which preferred German ghettos to French egalitarianism, and Czarist totalitarianism to American freedom.

Similarly, to dive head-on into the volcanic pit of nationalist hatred by seeking a dwelling in – of all places – the thick of a densely populated and intensely hostile Arab town is to physically, socially and mentally fortify the old ghetto walls.

Physically, Jewish Hebron, like the shtetl, will loom as an inorganic island in a landscape dominated by fundamentalist zealots who, like Czarist Russia, are blinded by hatred for Jews. There are plenty of places in this country where one can live without experiencing that dubious pleasure every given minute.

Socially, Jewish Hebron's everything-or-nothing attitude offers a recipe for perpetual estrangement between Isaac and Ishmael, to whom Noam Federman et al. will remain – in the words of Abraham to the owners of the Machpela Cave – "a stranger and a sojourner" even to their very next-door neighbors.

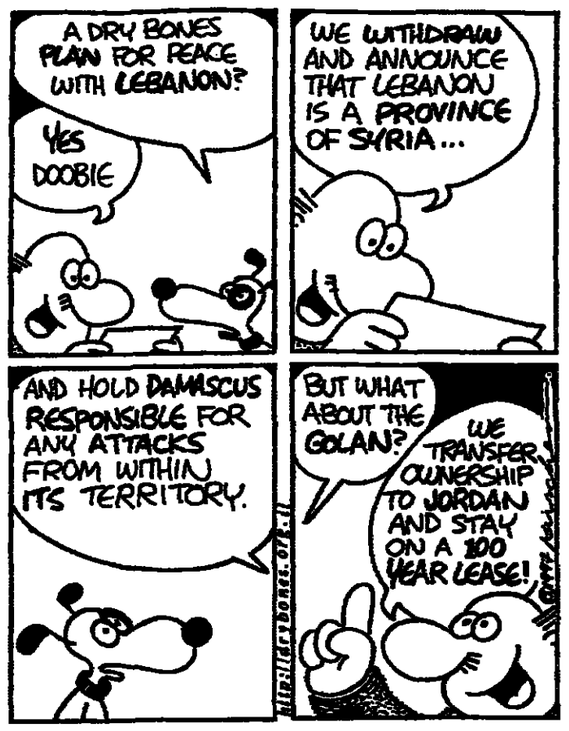
Surely, the root of the problem is mental.

A classical Zionist would see in the ability to enter, mingle and do business anywhere between Morocco and Oman, as a free man with a sovereign state, far more merit than in occupying non-Jewish towns and, while at it, being confined to a pale of settlement surrounded by electric fences.

Jewish Hebron's spiritual leaders, by contrast, disparage the budding ties with the larger Arab world, thus forming another link in a 200-year-old chain of rabbis who responded xenophobically to Jewish-Gentile reconciliation attempts.

And so, we end up with Jewish history's time-honored dead-end recipe which reads: Find out who hates you most, settle down right under their noses, surround yourself with walls, and reject any goy's extended hand. Seeing Jews harbor this attitude after all our ancestors have been through, one might really want to rip one's clothes.

Dry Bones



A VIEW FROM NOV

The mediacrats disease

By MOSHE KOHN

Comment is free, but facts are sacred.
C.P. Scott, editor, *The Manchester Guardian*, May 6, 1926

The conduct of the editors of *National Geographic* magazine (hereafter *NG*) is a blatant example of the disease I discussed last week, adamitis. Named after the "Original" sinner, Adam, its main symptoms are unrepentant denial of error and responsibility for error.

NG's conduct is in line with the general conduct of communications mediacrats. Writers and editors in the print media and editors, anchors and reporters in the electronic media are, with rare exceptions, notoriously adamitic.

NG's editor, William L. Allen, seems to think the reason some readers occasionally find the magazine unfaithful to fact and truth is that: "Clearly it is impossible to please everyone" (letter to the editor of *The Jerusalem Post*, December 27, 1996). As if honest presentation of facts aims to "please everyone."

Allen was responding to criticism by Andrea Levin, president of CAMERA (Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America) regarding the "proliferation of biased, anti-Israel articles in [the] supposedly non-political *[NG]*..." (the *Post*, November 29). That proliferation has been documented in these pages over the years by Levin, David Bar-Illan, Ruth Willers and me, among others.

In his letter, Allen boasts and proclaims: "Rather than embracing any political agenda, we will continue to publish articles that are as close to objective, fair and accurate as we can make them..."

Shall we deduce from this that *NG's* writers and editors are unable to produce more accurate, more objective, fairer articles on Israel?

Allen boasts that "we submit these stories for general review to eminent experts in the subjects at hand, often with opposing points of view [and] double and triple-check every statement of fact ... for accuracy." *NG's* record of sins of both commission and omission on Israel does not speak very well for the expertise of those eminences.

And he proclaims: "These facts are subject to interpretation, of course..."

Honestly presented facts remain facts, though people with different agendas, and even truly disinterested observers, may draw different conclusions from the same facts. But the distortion or omission of relevant facts certainly reflects an agenda, or error due to ignorance.

Refusal to acknowledge and correct error indicates acute adamitis.

Let us examine briefly how all this applies to *NG's* performance regarding Israel.

Last September it ran a photo story, *Gaza, Where Peace Walks a Tight Rope*, by Alexandra Avakian.

The editor's introductory note tells us how "residents of the Gaza Strip have endured military occupation since 1967, when Israel captured this narrow patch of land from Egypt..." He doesn't tell us how Israel entered the area in repulsing Egyptian-Syrian-Jordanian aggression in June 1967; how Egypt captured the area when it invaded newborn Israel in 1948; and what horrors Gazans endured under Egyptian occupation between 1948 and 1967.

Six pages later, in a picture-caption summary of the area's history, we read: "Tension between Palestinians and Jewish immigrants exploded during Israel's War of Independence [in 1948]. Egyptian-controlled Gaza was flooded with Palestinian refugees."

What a bizarre summary that first sentence is of what was then the 30-year history of Arab aggression against the Jews in Eretz Yisrael.

Furthermore, in that era, local Arab spokesmen had been vehemently denying (as some of them continued to do for at least another decade) that they were "Palestinians," and proudly declared themselves "Southern Syrians." Neither is there as much as a word about how Egypt violated the armistice agreement by turning the Gaza Strip into a heavily manned military base and the main base of the *Fedayeen* terrorists who over the years took a heavy toll of Israeli lives. Not a word about Israel's help after 1967 in supplementing Gaza's potable water supply, in modernizing local agriculture, industry and marketing, in providing housing (which met with vehement Arab and UN opposition).

Avakian portrays Yasser Arafat as a virtual George Washington, Simon Bolivar, Mahatma Gandhi – the same Arafat who at that writing was still egging his people to *"Jihad! Jihad! Jihad!"*

In *NG's* July issue, Peter Theroux, in *Syria Behind the Mask*, depicts that international-terror-and-drug-sponsoring tyranny as, in the words of Andrea Levin, "a colorful, liberalizing nation, whose misfortune it is to have Israel on its southern border."

Naturally, Theroux fails to tell us how Israel entered the Golan Heights in June 1967 in the course of repulsing aggression and after enduring nearly two decades of Syrian guns on the Heights raining down death on Israeli villages.

In last April's *Three Faces of Jerusalem*, Alan Mairson ignores Jerusalem's preeminent, unbroken three-millennial role in Jewish life, thought, prayer, aspiration, and striving. He writes of Jerusalem's beauty, but fails to point out that centuries of Islamic rule, especially the 1948-1967 Jordanian occupation, left the city a virtual slum.

Contrary to Mairson, the account of Mohammed's ascent to Heaven from Jerusalem does not appear in "Scripture," but is a later embellishment of the Koran's "Night Journey" Sura 17. Indeed, the Koran never mentions Jerusalem or the Temple Mount.

In Mairson's account, too, the Arabs didn't launch a war of annihilation against Israel in 1948. All that happened was that: "The Arabs rejected the [UN partition proposal], and... the fighting began..."

Assistant editor Don Belt's article on Galilee in *NG's* June 1995 issue gives a similarly distorted, one-sided picture. In the June 1992 issue Tad Szulc, offering an answer to "Who Are the Palestinians?", has a photo caption tell us: "If the stones of this hillside could speak, they would tell of Persians, Romans, Ottoman Turks, British, and Jordanians – rulers of the land once called Palestine..."

He forgot, among others, the Babylonians, the Byzantines, the invaders from Arabia, and the Crusaders. And oh yes, the Jews – you know, those Toynbeean fossils who made this place holy and important to begin with.

And the land was never really called "Palestine," except by the second-century Romans who wanted to obliterate every Jewish vestige from it, and by the British between 1917 and 1948. The Arabs themselves till very recently called it "Southern Syria."

These are only a few examples of *NG's* adamitis.

(Thanks also to Martin Lackner, Los Angeles, and Nathan P. Baker, Walnut Creek, California, who have since canceled their long-time subscriptions to NG, *and to my colleague Ramon Bernard.)*

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By BEVERLEE BLACK

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$50 In honor of grandchildren Thomas, Casey and Michael – M. Nat Kanarek, Flushing, NY. Raquel Sinai, Melrose Park, PA. Mark A. Trzasko, Sterling Heights, MI. In memory of Stewart Shapiro – Brian Shapiro and L.K. Levine, Santa Barbara, Ca. Ruth Windwehr, Teaneck, NJ.

$33 Shirley Landau, N. Hollywood, CA.

Continued on Page 14

SHABBAT SHALOM

Don't worry, be active

By RABBI SHLOMO RISKIN

"God said to Moses: 'Why are you crying out to Me? Speak to the Israelites, and let them start moving. Raise your staff and extend your hand over the sea. You will split the sea, and the Israelites will be able to cross over on dry land.'" (Ex. 14:15)

The high level of tension in Israeli society draws the man and woman in the street to any message which calms the neurotic compulsion to worry. One of my students even suggested that such messages express a profoundly Jewish one of faith in God – and therefore advocated "Don't worry, be happy" as an Ohr Torah mantra.

What does the Torah really advocate? Is the ideal of our lives to reach a state of happiness by eliminating worry? Or does faith in God demand human input, which would change the message to "Don't worry, be active!"?

In our portion this week, *Beshalah*, the Jews are caught between the Egyptians and the sea.

It seems that their history is ending before it has begun; they cry to God that it would have been better to live as slaves in Egypt rather than die in the desert. God responds by declaring to Moses: "Why are you crying out to Me? Speak to the Israelites, and let them start moving."

God does not say, "Don't worry, be happy."

In Tractate *Berachot* (60a) the rabbis debate two approaches to faith. R. Aha says that when a person has himself bled (in those days, a traditional means of healing) he should pray: "May it be Your will that this procedure heal me, but it is You, O God, who is a faithful and true healer. Indeed, it is not in the hands of human beings to help; they only go through the motions."

Abaye vehemently disagrees, stating: "A person should not speak in such a fashion. As the academy of R. Yishmael teaches, [the biblical 'double phrase' in the passage dealing with the responsibility of the assailant to pay his victim's medical bills], he shall enable him to be healingly healed (*verapo yerapei*)" (Ex. 21:19) signifies that there is permission to allow doctors to heal, and not leave the curing process exclusively up to God.

We human beings must assume our rightful place as God's partners.

Nahmanides and Maimonides, some 1,000 years later, seem to be involved in the same controversy.

Commenting on Leviticus 26:11, Nahmanides writes that although Judaism allows you to go to a doctor, it is nevertheless within the prerogative of any patient to reject medical intervention, for the individual who relies solely on the Almighty may be on a higher religious level of faith than the individual who subjects himself to a doctor's decisions.

Maimonides, on the other hand, in his *Commentary to the Mishna*, Pesahim 56, insists that the Almighty endowed the human being with the intelligence and ability to cure disease, and to ignore this means denying our very partnership with God in "perfecting the world under His kingship."

This fundamental dispute may be used to understand the positions of the religious community with regard to the very establishment of the State of Israel.

Some 100 years ago, Reb Itzele Petersburger (Rabbi Isaac Blaser, 1837-1907, rabbi of St. Petersburg and a leading student of R. Yisrael Salanter) sparked a controversy in his congregation by becoming an avid Zionist.

"Where is your faith?" the delegation appointed by the committee to fire the rabbi demanded to know. "Do we not recite thrice daily in the *Amida*: 'Please return to Jerusalem, Your city ... Blessed are You, O Lord, builder of Jerusalem'? It is God who is to restore Jerusalem, and not Zionist Jews!"

Reb Itzele listened to his accusers with respect. "I accept your verdict that I am a heretic and must leave. But if so, you – Reb Shmuel, the head of our court – must leave with me. Where was your faith last week, when you searched the city for a doctor to treat your daughter's asthma? Do we not pray: 'Heal us, O God, then we will be healed ... Blessed are You, O God, healer of Israel'? And you, the *parnas* [president] of the community, you must leave as well! Did you not work last night until 10 p.m.? What of the prayer we recite for physical sustenance, which concludes: 'Blessed are You, O God, the One who blesses the years with sustenance'?"

The community understood that just as with regard to health and sustenance, we first do whatever we can and only then have the right to call upon God, so must it be with regard to Jerusalem and Israel.

There are two strains in Judaism. One says: "Don't worry, be happy; leave everything to God."

The other says: "Don't worry, because worry alone accomplishes nothing. Have confidence that eventually God's plan will come to fruition, but exactly when and how depends at least as much on us as it does on Him."

At the end of our portion, the Torah recounts how the Israelites are attacked by Amalek, but emerge victorious. Moses builds an altar, naming it "God-is-my-Banner." He says: "The hand is on God's throne. God shall be at war with Amalek for all generations" (Ex. 17:16).

The Torah uses the shortened word for throne – *kais* – and a shortened name for God – *Y-a*. The Midrash explains: God's throne and His name are not complete until Amalek, the symbol of evil, is destroyed. And how is Amalek to be destroyed? "You must obliterate the memory of Amalek from under the heavens. You must not forget." (Deut. 25:18) is one of the 613 commandments God gives the Jewish people.

This means that as much as we may be waiting for God, God is also waiting for us – to be His partners, to help perfect our world.

May we be worthy of our God-given responsibilities.

Shabbat Shalom

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GRAPEVINE

A silken revolution

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

A silken revolution which took place in Israel last week passed almost without comment. Within a day of each other, the Ministry for Industry and Trade and the Health Ministry each announced the appointment of a new chief scientist – and in each case it was a woman, **Orna Berry** for Industry and **Bracha Reger** for Health. Perhaps the very fact that the appointments were made without fanfare indicates a maturity on the part of the Israeli public.

The question is where do we go from here? We've already had a woman prime minister; we've got a woman as acting Attorney General, and another woman heading the State Comptroller's office. We can't have a woman chief rabbi – but we could aim for president of both the Supreme Court and the State. The problem is that we're heading for a situation in which men are going to claim unfair discrimination.

CONTRARY TO what we've been taught, a picture doesn't always say more than a thousand words. The caption on the back of the photograph which arrived at *The Jerusalem Post* stated Shas Women's Day at the Holiday Inn, but there were no women in the photo, which included MK **Aryeh Deri** and Labor and Social Affairs Minister **Eli Yishai**. A telephone call to Jerusalem Holiday Inn public relations manager **Nurit Rafaeli** confirmed that the facts were correct. It was just that the women were in the audience and the men were on the podium. In some circles, they still talk down to women.

IT WAS almost a full house at the gala Tel Aviv benefit screening of *Evita* for The New Leadership of the Hebrew University Alumni which later this year plans to host a large delegation of HU graduates residing abroad. Prominent attorney **Yigal Arnon**, who chairs the Israel Friends of the Hebrew University, brought along his granddaughter, **Roni**, to learn from the example of former students who, in appreciation of what they had received, want to give something back. "I hope one day she'll do the same as you," he told the audience. **Riki Gal**, who played the title role in the Hebrew stage production of *Evita*, came not to sing but to see. "I'm a lot *better than Madonna*," she announced to applauding admirers. And then taking a line from the Pelephone commercial in which she appears, she said: "because my voice ... that's me."

"FOR THE last four months the only fashion show I've witnessed is the one which the Israelis and Palestinians in the Hebron negotiations paraded in front of me, and they're not very well dressed," said US ambassador **Martin Indyk** at the unveiling of **Gershon Bram**'s new fall/winter collection to mark the 20th birthday of the Israel Multiple Sclerosis Society. Indyk also recalled that US Middle East peace envoy **Dennis Ross** had brought only one suit for what turned out to be a 28-day sojourn.



Riki Gal, who played the title role in the Hebrew production of 'Evita,' and attorney Yigal Arnon attend a benefit screening of the movie for The New Leadership of the Hebrew University Alumni. (Nissan Shoser)

When Indyk settled down to watch Bram's show, his neighbor on one side was Egyptian ambassador **Mohammed Bassiouny**, and the odds are reasonably high that when they tete-a-teted, they weren't talking about fashion.

Tel Aviv mayor **Roni Milo**, when mounting the podium to voice his greetings, tripped into the arms of the emcee, stunning super-model **Michaela Bercu**. Making a quick recovery, Milo confided to the crowd: "It was worth it."

FORMER FOREIGN and defense minister **Moshe Arens** has been the victim of the media, including yours truly. Arens, who resigned from the chairmanship of Zim, has had to reiterate to one reporter after another that he wasn't pushed out – he bowed out of his own volition. Of course, if he wasn't a celeb, no-one would care one way or the other.

WHEN YOU'RE the Knesset deputy secretary for special events, it's easier to get through to the boss than if you're an outsider. Thus when **Ruth Kaplan**, who is involved with Leshem, the Association for the Advancement of Higher Education for Dyslexic Students, wanted Knesset Speaker **Dan Tichon** to address those attending today's benefit screening of **Itzhak Yeshurun**'s prize-winning film *A Brief History of Love*, all she had to do was cross the corridor. Leshem supporters who will be present at the Tel Aviv Museum where the film will be shown will include internationally acclaimed sculptress **Ilana Goor**, whose own future might have taken a different turn if more had been known about dyslexia when she was a child.

GIVEN ALL the stories about how the road to Hollywood stardom is paved on the director's couch, there's no reason why Hollywood should be agog at the revelation that **Robert de Niro** had a a two-year romance with British porn-queen **Charmaine Sinclair**. It might have gone on longer but for the fact that de Niro wanted to father a child, and Charmaine was not the mother he had in mind.

GOOD FRIENDS don't forget. **Elton John** got together in Paris with Queen members **John Deacon**, **Brian May** and **Roger Taylor** for a one-time concert in memory of **Freddie Mercury**.

ATTEMPTS BY the Chinese to prevent films being made about him have turned the **Dalai Lama** into potential hot box-office property. He already has a fan club whose members include **Richard Gere** and **Harrison Ford**.

THE WEEK THAT WAS

It's the fat cats that get the extra cream

By MICHAL YUDELMAN

It was the Knesset's birthday this week so, rather than bake a cake for the building, the honorable members instead decided to treat themselves. First they humbly awarded themselves a pay rise of 6.9 percent, some icing to top the whopping 33 percent they recently gave themselves. What the heck – why not make it a nice round 40 percent?

Next they added a $1,000 bonus for themselves for opening offices at home. After all, they must keep in touch with their constituents and is it their fault they are only in the Knesset three days a week? Neither let us forget the $600 bonus awarded to the MK who beat his wife – "abuse incentive," perhaps?

Knesset members now get NIS 26,367 a month, plus monthly perks adding up to NIS 10,375.

These, of course, are the same MKs who so recently supported the massive budget cuts that strike deeply into the shallow pockets of middle-income earners, pensioners, and those generally lesser mortals who must also find increased education and medical fees. The hard-pressed parliamentarians also declined to update the income-tax scales scheduled for 1997 – that adds up to more taxes for thee and me.

Perhaps the MKs were rewarding themselves for their valiant stand against raising the minimum wage – NIS 2,000 – for hundreds of thousands of workers.

Times are tough, sobbed the ministers through floods of crocodile tears. Oh, what a terrible economic legacy we inherited from the Labor lot, whined the prime minister. Yes, that too is the same Binyamin Netanyahu who said a short while ago that the wealth of Israel will soon outstrip that of the states of the European Union.

This will be a hard year for the citizens, he now informs us somberly – well, for some citizens anyway. Those citizens who also happen to be prime ministers, ministers, MKs or public-sector "senior officials" have thoughtfully insulated themselves against the chill economic winds.

Our MKs may have skins as thick as rhinoceros hides but even among them, an occasional prick of conscience seemed to penetrate. Some seemed even to consider "objecting" to their pay rise. Well, yes "object" is a touch too strong ... let's not get carried away on a wave of emotional public concern. It could perhaps be "put off" discreetly for a while, for appearances' sake, they suggested. In coming weeks, there is bound to be some new crisis, everyone will forget about MKs and their pay, and the raise could slip by unnoticed.

Even as MKs shamelessly fattened their own wallets, the Knesset carried on business as usual elsewhere, nibbling at the wages of its own women employees who also happen to be mothers.

Working mothers received a letter from the Knesset management telling them that if they are late for work because of some child-related problem, the time will be deducted from their pay.

It may not be too much longer before MKs once again will find themselves confronting demonstrators shouting: "You're corrupt, we're fed up with you," just like the citizens of Bulgaria poured onto the streets of Sofia this week to shout at their own nest-feathering incompetents.



An attack by PM Binyamin Netanyahu on MK Dalia Itzik (above) raised cries of sexism.

MONEY? NO PROBLEM

"There always is plenty of money for some things," states Murphy's First Law of Government.

The huge salaries paid to senior officials in the public sector exceed those permitted by law by a whopping NIS 1.5 billion. That, as Meretz MK Ran Cohen pointed out, oddly resembles the extra budget cut sought by the finance minister. Municipalities have raised tax rates sharply this year, pleading budget deficits. Yet, lo and behold, they too have abundant funds to pay senior officials huge salaries. They even have some left over to pay such oddities as car expenses for officials with no cars, fictitious overtime, and fees for such obscure and surreal accounting items as "milk," "effort" and "burden."

From hundreds of examples, the official in charge of wages in the Treasury, Yossi Kucik, cited one city official who retired at 49 with a pension of NIS 34,000 a month, and a municipal treasurer who retired at 45 with a NIS 29,000 pension.

"This is only the tip of the iceberg," he said. He might have been referring to the NIS 67,359 (indeed, per month) of the director of the public insurance company Karnit, or to the NIS 60,000 paid to the Electricity Corporation managers – yes, the ones who are forever raising electricity prices.

The Histadrut, the bankrupt defender of the workers, will soon be firing more workers because of its "growing deficit." Nonetheless, it will of course scrape together NIS 300,000 this year to hand over to the Shas youth organization, Shas sources told *Ha'aretz* this week.

That was another of MK Haim Ramon's great "achievements" in the Histadrut – getting Shas onto that payroll as well.

The Shas youth organization, Bnei Hayil, among other activities, seeks to "convert" secular youths to a haredi way of life – a highly controversial missionary activity which tears families apart. Many secular parents may not be too amused to find they may actually be financing the attempted conversion of their children – by means of their Histadrut fees.

MALE CHAUVINIST BIBI

Netanyahu's attack on Labor MK Dalia Itzik in the Knesset last week raised a storm of reaction – much of it reaching the desk of Shelly Yehimovitz of Israel Radio's *Hakol Diburim* ("It's All Talk").

Despite efforts to portray himself as a Mr. Nineties Man and a champion of women's causes, the prime minister's mask slipped in a moment of irritation and perhaps short temper to expose a good old-fashioned male chauvinist.

MKs found it hard to recall Netanyahu ever saying to any male MK: "Oh, stop squeaking. You have something to say about everything," or "you're Indira Gandhi and Golda Meir rolled into one," or "what do you know [about terrorism]; why don't you stick to something you understand" (knitting perhaps?)

The remarks were seen quite simply as patronizing chauvinism. "I was shocked by his chauvinism," said MK Yael Dayan on the air. Na'amat chairman Ofra Friedman said Netanyahu should remember women MKs are every bit as knowledgeable and capable on any given matter as men, and he should show some respect for women politicians.

One faxed response read out by Yehimovitz suggested that Sara Netanyahu take her husband to task: "You know how to deal with him; he's afraid of you."

Another woman more pointedly suggested Netanyahu himself does not know what he's talking about half the time. "His previous experience as a Rim furniture sales manager hardly qualified him to be prime minister," she added.

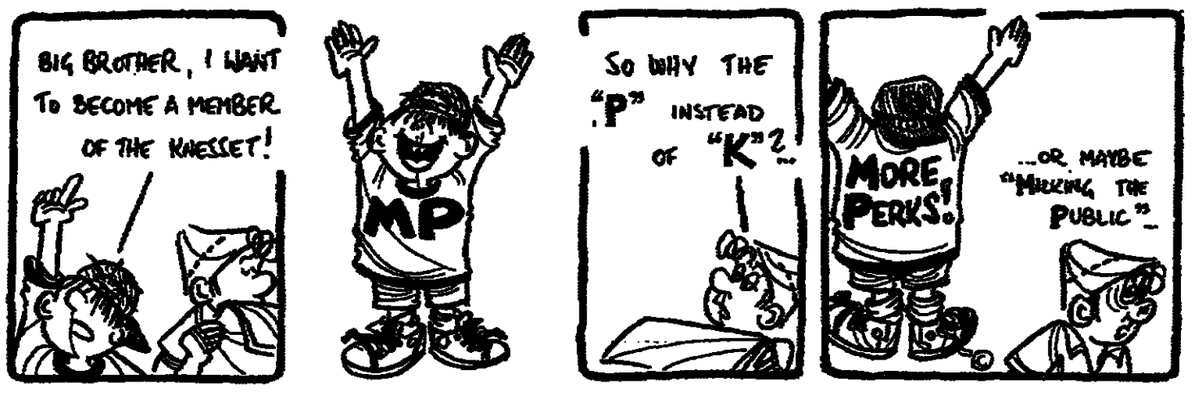
Many other callers agreed: "Netanyahu does not respect women."

Netanyahu spokesman Shai Bazak pops up on air, as if by magic, whenever the word "Netanyahu" is mentioned. Sure enough – pop! – "The prime minister is not a chauvinist," chimes in Bazak on cue. "He would have made the same criticism against any MK, nothing to do with gender. This picking on every word of his and trying to intimidate him into not expressing criticism must stop. It is unthinkable that the prime minister on the Knesset podium should have to hesitate to react..."

Yehimovitz interrupted the tirade. "Tell me," she asked, "why can't he think before he speaks? What's wrong with that?"

Maybe the politicians need more incentive up there – a "think-first pay increment" should do the trick.

SRULIK by DOSH



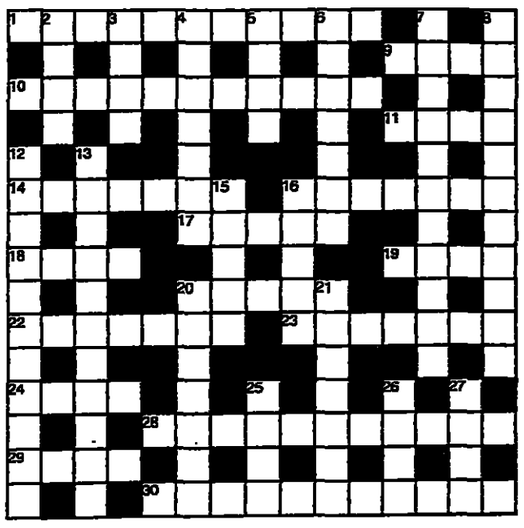
CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

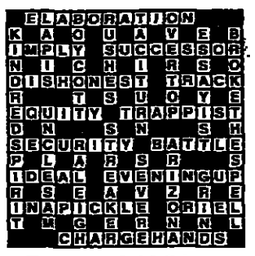
1 Picture the killing—it was very close! (11)
9 Sounds as if they're asking to start the pudding (4)
10 Delicate point is made to be stretched (11)
11 ...so he fitted this on his foot (4)
14 Sticks around in teeth (7)
16 Have a difference of opinion about unnecessary radiation (4-3)
17 Live, at some point, in a small valley (5)
18 Five in one sort of cooker (4)
19 Delay sounds heavy! (4)
20 Some daft error later (5)
22 A meal I mentioned had a nutritious ingredient (7)
23 Yeast like fungus from rue—a lot is needed (7)
24 Skinhead gets ticket for a buck (4)
28 Did he put up poster depicting accounts of the heart? (11)
29 Old South American in *North American state* (4)
30 Script not delivered by hand, although produced from the fingers! (11)

DOWN

2 Man on record as offering assistance (4)
3 Try to get a match (4)
4 Dallied after losing a lid somehow (7)
5 A bit of pointed metal embedded in one's finger? (4)
6 Particular place is destroyed (7)
7 Make can appear chic! (11)
8 Nothing can be played on strings by people of no importance (11)
12 Students bone up on their knowledge for this (11)
13 Troubled heir in ancient form of receivership? (11)
15 A very fast bird... (5)
16 ...and very fast ships (5)
20 Any girl who is upset badly will react in this way (7)
21 Anyway, it goes round (7)
25 Singing with joy (4)
26 Drunkard taking can opener comes from North of the border (4)
27 Just water! (4)



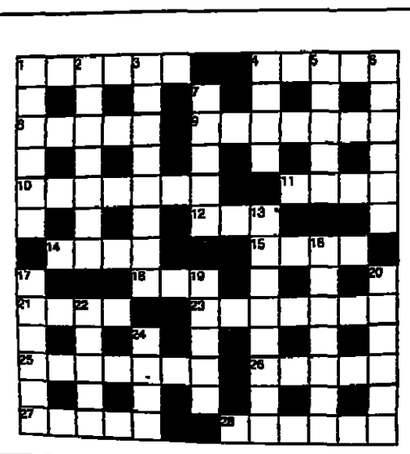
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DOWN: 1 Clinker, 2 Elegy, 3 Shackle, 4 Matins, 5 Sumac, 6 Infused, 7 Erica, 12 Item, 14 Area, 16 Buckler, 18 Vagrant, 19 Dissect, 21 Menial, 22 Ibiza, 23 Narks, 25 Orion.



QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 *Money bags* (6)
4 Anxious (5)
8 Dug in a pit (5)
9 One who faces facts (7)
10 Figure (7)
11 A vegetable (4)
12 Cooking vessel (3)
14 Slip (4)
15 Gown (4)
18 Not at home (3)
21 Uncommon (4)
23 Pouring wet (7)
25 Ocean (7)
26 Devil (5)
27 Fermented apple juice (5)
28 Loves very much (6)

DOWN

1 Scented hair cream (6)
2 Pillage (7)
3 Fabulous mythical place (8)
4 Side (4)
5 Din (5)
6 Scope (6)
7 Crowd (5)
13 Trudged (8)
16 Pustule (7)
17 Circle of latitude (6)
19 Section of land (5)
20 Representatives (6)
22 Hurried (5)
24 A long way away (4)

FUNDS

Continued from Page 13

$30 Lawrence Layfer, Wilmette, IL.
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$20 In honor of my bar mitzva – Daniel Kaufman, Huntingdon Valley, PA.
$18 Adrienne Marks, Washington, DC. Sylvia Rothstein, Miami Beach, FL. In memory of my mother, Mona Popkin – Marcia Sandler, Teaneck, NJ. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Halevi, Chicago, IL. Dr. and Mrs. Solomon Robbins, Randallstown, MD.
$10 From the tzedaka box of four-and-a-half-year-old Joshua Remba – Sunnyvale, CA.
$6 Am Yisrael Hai – Julius Lampert, Wantagh, NY.
$5 Candyce Hebrew.

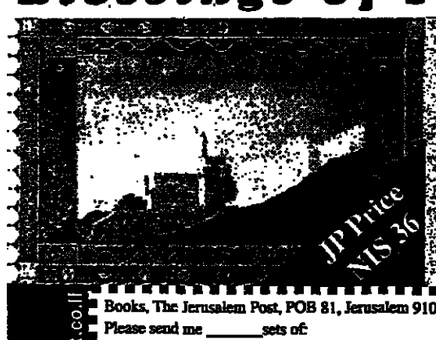
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$18 In memory of my mother, Mona Popkin – Marcia Sandler, Teaneck, NJ. Adrienne Marks, Washington, DC. Dr. and Mrs. Solomon Robbins, Randallstown, MD.
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BITS & BYTES

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

Bezeq integrates Orckit Fastinternet system

Bezeq recently began using Orckit Communications' (Nasdaq: ORCTF) FastInternet xDSL Broadband Access System in a newly launched technical/market trial in Holon. FastInternet incorporates central office xDSL line-concentration, or multiplexing, which provides a cost-effective and flexible transmission system for telecom operators, Orckit says. Bezeq's trial is one of the world's first to use digital subscriber line technology to provide fast access to the Internet, at speeds 27 times faster than analog modems.

Elbit installs telephone system in China

Elbit Ltd. (Nasdaq: ELBTF) and authorities in the northern Chinese province of Tianjin are working together to install a telephone communication system that builds on the existing network, the company said. The Haifa-based company, with interests in communications, electronic textile-inspection equipment and television manufacturing, said the system will provide basic telephone services and will be able to integrate public telephone networks.

Logal offers Internet-based educational network

Logal Educational Software & Systems Ltd. (Nasdaq: LOGLF) recently announced it new Internet-based educational network, Logal.Net. Logal has put 6,000 of its interactive, simulation-based high school and college math and science lessons on the Internet. By accessing the service at www.logal.net, users can receive lessons in math, biology, physics and chemistry. Located in Hatzor, Logal designs, creates, and markets interactive simulation-based educational software.

Onyx signs cooperation pact with India's TATA According to a recently signed agreement, Onyx of Tel Aviv, through its subsidiary JADE, will serve as the local representative of TATA Consultancy Services, the largest software house in Asia. JADE will market the services TATA offers, including the development and packaging of software. Although many Israeli companies provide similar services, TATA can offer a 40% savings, an Onyx spokesperson said.

RAD's MAXcess passes MCI testing

RAD Data Communications has passed interoperability and functional testing to provide Voice Over Frame Relay (VoFR) access products for use on MCI's HyperStream Frame Relay Network, the company has announced.

RAD is the first vendor to pass MCI's Development Lab testing for VoFR products to support a strategic account. RAD is a member of the $200 million RAD Group of Companies, a privately held developer of networking and internetworking product solutions.

Santa Cruz Operations to hold conference in TA

Santa Cruz Operations, a leading supplier of UNIX server and host systems, will hold its International UNIX Technology Conference on Monday, January 27, 1997 at the Gan Oranim Ballroom in Tel Aviv.

Organized in cooperation with Sintec Advanced Technologies and sponsored by Oracle, Data General, Netscape and Hewlett Packard, the conference is aimed at all professionals who need to understand how the UNIX community is contending with the accelerating pace of innovation. For more information, call (09) 952-6809.

Wiztec sells client/server system to cable operator

Wiztec Solutions Ltd. (Nasdaq: WIZTF), a leading provider of subscriber management systems for multi-channel television, recently announced an agreement to provide Tevel Israel International Communications, an Israeli cable operator, with its new client/server Wizard system.

The system runs on UNIX based servers and Windows '95 based clients and features graphical user interface. Wiztec develops, markets and supports computer software which provides multi-channel subscription television system operators with management systems.

Business leaders claim privatization plan lacks depth

By GALIT LIPKIS BECK and DAVID HARRIS

The newly approved government privatization plan has been given a lukewarm reception by some of Israel's business leaders, who fear it lacks any real depth.

The Ministerial Committee on Privatization accepted, late Wednesday, the Prime Minister's Office proposals for the sale of government companies, including the immediate sale of 12. The largest of these are Bezeq, Zim, and Israel Chemicals.

"What the government unveiled is not a plan – it is merely a declaration of intentions," said Aharon Dovrat, joint manager of the Dovrat Shrem investment bankers. "A program must be concrete and include information like how the privatization will take place: through a tender, an offering on the exchange, or via the sale to a private investor.

"In terms of the declaration, it is a positive thing. I am very much in favor of privatization. We are investment bankers and know of many companies worldwide that are interested in the Israeli economy. Once there is a concrete plan we will inform them of it and see they are interested," Dovrat said.

"What they unveiled is similar to what the past government unveiled," said Jonathan Kolber, president of the investment company Claridge Israel. "My experience has been that their grand programs are not as important as execution and the past government did not excel at executing these programs. I hope that this government does better. It is all a question of priorities.

"What is meaningful is what they will actually do. Things take time here." Kolber said the consortium he represents is always looking at investment opportunities here. In the past, Claridge headed a consortium to acquire control of Bank Hapoalim. The consortium withdrew its bid following government delays and changes in the conditions.

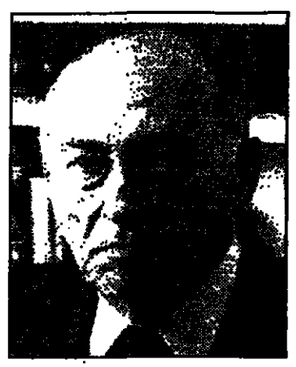
Meanwhile, on the political front, MK Yossi Beilin (Labor) questioned the government's ability to implement its plans. "Actual privatization is much harder than coming out with slogans," said Beilin. "The period of grace is now over, and I see this government has particular problems in functioning. I have a lack of confidence."



MK Yossi Beilin: Actual privatization is harder than coming out with slogans. (D. Taylor-Zimelman)



Government Companies Authority head Tzipi Livni recently met C&W CEO Brown.



Aharon Dovrat: The government unveiled a declaration of intentions, not a plan. (H. Guthmann)

This sentiment was echoed by Dan Galai, joint managing director of Sigma Portfolio Selection Consulting & Management Ltd. "The government is making the same mistake over and over by overstating what it can do before it checks it out," he said.

One senior civil servant said a considerable portion of the program is "nothing new" and that, while the idea is very positive, he is waiting to see the results before praising the government. The official also questioned the government's ability to sell the smaller companies, such as the schools of tourism and the regional tourism infrastructure-development companies. "It might be difficult to find buyers," he said.

What still remains unclear is how each of the state assets will be sold. While ministry deputy director-general Moshe Leon outlined five possible methods of sale, the ministerial committee, comprising Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, Finance Minister Dan Meridor, and Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi, has not yet decided how to sell each company.

The controlling shares in Bezeq, its seems likely, will be sold privately in all probability to the UK-based Cable & Wireless Plc. The company is at an advanced stage of negotiations with a view to expanding its 10 percent interest in the company. "We are continuing our contacts and discussions with the government very amicably," company spokesman Peter Eustus said yesterday. "We have already said we will support the government on privatization." C&W CEO Richard Brown has recently held talks with both Communications Minister Limor Livnat and Government Companies Authority Director-General Tzipi Livni.

Beilin believes the government is wrong in its apparent abandonment of the so-called options program, whereby every citizen would be given the opportunity of purchasing shares. "This is the most practical system," he said, while accepting that the return is likely to be lower than by sale of the controlling shares.

Galai also called on the government to reconsider the options program. "There may be no better alternative, especially given the current state of the stock market," he said.

Sources in the Prime Minister's Office say that carrying out the options program would require legislation, leading to a delay before sales can take place. However, Beilin guaranteed there would be strong opposition support for the proposal. "We could do this in a matter of weeks," he said.

Local authorities demand Kucik's resignation

By DAVID HARRIS

The Union of Local Authorities is calling for the immediate resignation of the Treasury Wages and Labor Agreements Director Yossi Kucik, following the publication of his third annual Public Bodies Salaries Report earlier this week.

In a letter to Finance Minister Dan Meridor, union chairman Adi Eldar accuses Kucik of publishing false statistics concerning pay in local authorities.

This suggestion was strongly refuted last night by Treasury spokesman Eli Yossef. "This report is published in accordance with the law," he said. "The document is precise in all its facts, including those concerning the local authorities."

The letter, also sent to the prime minister, state comptroller, and senior politicians, said the way the report relates to local authority heads is irresponsible, unprofessional, and shows a lack of awareness.

The report and the various subsequent meetings held in the Knesset and among municipal leaders have underlined deep divisions among employers, workers, civil servants, and those in the wider public sector.

Eldar claims the average wage in the Civil Service, which is not included in the Kucik Report, is at least double that of the local authorities, and the report should also address that area of the public sector.

In his letter, Eldar complains the union only received the report hours before its publication. Although the document suggested that 89 percent of local authorities were paying wages above the Treasury-set guidelines, according the union only 1,500 workers, or 1.8% of employees are receiving too much pay. In chapter after chapter, Eldar says, the document shows that local authority pay is the lowest in the public sector, both at worker and management levels.

"We are not saying there aren't any deviations [in pay]," writes Eldar. "Those that do will not receive the support of the union."

Economic activity index down 0.8%

By Jerusalem Post Staff

The Bank of Israel integrated index of economic activity fell 0.8 percent to 117.2 points in December, returning the index to its July to August level. Overall the index ended the year up 3.7%, having fallen 1% in the last two months. In 1995 the index rose more than 10%.

The December index comprised a variety of indicators taken from across the economy:

- Industrial production fell 1.5%, following a 2% decline in November.
- Retail trade increased 3.6%, after a similar sized drop in the previous month.
- The imports index climbed 0.3%, after shrinking 6.7% in November.

The economic situation was mixed in the last quarter of 1996, with construction and tourism particularly badly affected, while the government brought inflation down to a 7% annual rate, compared with 15% during the first half of the year.

Next week central bank governor Jacob Frenkel will announce February's interest rates. Once again, sources within the bank are suggesting the cut will be low, if made at all. Until there are clear signs the government's NIS 7.2 budget cut for 1997 is being successfully implemented, the bank has made it clear it will keep a tight reign over its monetary policy.

Corporate America gears up for Superbowl XXXI

By MICHAEL FITZPATRICK

NEW YORK (Reuter) – Not just the Packers and the Patriots will be battling on Super Bowl Sunday – some of America's biggest companies will be fighting to score points with the largest television audience of the year.

"There's a national communal party, and consumers many times talk as much about the ads as they do the game," Pepsi-Cola Co. Executive Vice President Brian Swette said in an interview.

"It's a more active experience. Consumers are actually engaged and look forward to the ads," he said.

More than 120 million people are expected to tune in to game between the Green Bay Packers and the New England Patriots on Sunday, and advertisers are paying $40,000 a second to reach that massive audience.

Archrivals Pepsi-Cola and Coca-Cola Co. will bring their cola war to the game. Other big names include Budweiser brewer Anheuser-Busch Cos. Inc., long-distance giant AT&T Corp., Intel Corp., and Cadillac.

For advertisers supplying the ingredients for many a Super Bowl party – such as beer, soda, snack food and sandwich meats – the game is a natural fit.

Among those, Anheuser-Busch will again be the top advertiser with four minutes of time during the game, including a spot just after the kick-off.

This year's Super Bowl also features some newcomers, not the least of which is Rupert Murdoch's Fox television network in its debut broadcast of the football championship.

For Fox, the News Corp. Ltd. unit that spent heavily to win professional football television rights from CBS, ad sales for all of Sunday's football coverage could bring in more than $100 million, industry sources said.

Advertisers paid an average $1.2 million for a 30-second spot during the game, with latecomers getting hit for as much as $1.3 million. That means a total of nearly $70 million for the 29 minutes of advertising during the game, industry sources said, which could mount to more than $100 million for the whole day's football programming.

Despite the steep price tag, executives at Cadillac – advertising in the Super Bowl for the first time – said the cost was worth it to reach a younger audience for its new German-built entry-level luxury car.

"We're featuring a new vehicle called the Catera, which appeals to a younger group of buyers than Cadillac normally appeals to," Martin Walsh, marketing services manager for Cadillac, said in an interview. "There's probably no better way to talk to them."

Some advertisers, however, have decided that this year the Super Bowl may not deliver enough bang for the buck.

Master Lock, famous its ads featuring a padlock being shot with a bullet, has advertised in 21 of the last 23 Super Bowls, but is saving its ad dollars to introduce a number of new products.

"One 30-second spot was not enough to tell each individual product story," said John Melamed, senior vice president, Cramer-Krasselt, Milwaukee, Master Lock's ad agency since 1974. "That's not to say we won't be back. The task is just a little different this year."

Another longtime Super Bowl advertiser, fast food chain McDonald's Corp., also plans to give the big game a miss.

During the game, viewers may see more of supermodel Cindy Crawford than some of the players. Crawford will be featured in ads by Cadillac and Pepsi.

Pepsi, the second biggest advertiser behind Anheuser-Busch, plans to take a different tack from rival Coca-Cola's nostalgia-tinged ads and will use the game to launch its new campaign, "Generation Next."

"It clearly points Pepsi to the future and in many ways reinforces Coke's focus on the past," Pepsi's Swette said. "There couldn't be a clearer difference in attitude and outlook."

Coca-Cola is returning to the Super Bowl for the first time since 1991 and will introduce its citrus soda Surge, a direct assault on Pepsi's Mountain Dew.

Oscar Mayer, the sponsor of the Super Bowl's half-time show, again will use the game as a platform to showcase winners of its national talent search contest.

This year, Oscar Mayer gets an added bonus – the Green Bay Packers are from its home state of Wisconsin.

"We could not have scripted it any better," said Mark Zander, category business director for the Madison, Wisconsin-based unit of Kraft Foods Inc. "Overall, this place is pretty excited about being in the Super Bowl. A lot of us were born and mised Packer fans, and this is unbelievable."

IDB ups share in YLR

By GALIT LIPKIS BECK

IDB Holding Corp., controlled by the Recanati family, will acquire Udi Recanati's share in YLR Capital Markets for about NIS 18.3 million.

The purchase is in line with the major managerial changes in the IDB Group.

Udi Recanati, Raphael Recanati's son, is expected to head the IDB group's international division and head Discount Investments, a leading investment company. Recanati will take over from Dov Tadmor, 67, who is due to resign soon. Until now, Udi Recanati did not engage directly in the IDB group's activities.

In an announcement to the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, IDB said it intends to purchase 3.056m. ordinary shares from Udi Recanati, who controls 31 percent of YLR's shares.

The transaction price is based on an external company valuation conducted by Professor Dan Givoli. According to the valuation, YLR's broad range of activities makes it relatively immune to negative changes on the stock exchange.

Among others, YLR provides consultancy services for firms raising capital on local and international stock exchanges. The company is also engaged in underwriting and management of public offerings, mergers and acquisitions, and asset management.

YLR's shares are traded on the TASE. The firm is jointly owned by Udi Recanati, the IDB Group and the Israel Corporation.

The transaction is subject to the approval of IDB's shareholders meeting which is scheduled to convene at the end of January.

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96)

Currency (deposit for:)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar ($250,000)	4.750	5.000	5.375
Pound sterling (£100,000)	3.875	4.000	4.250
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.625	1.825	2.125
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.625	0.750	1.000
Yen (10 million yen)	—	—	—

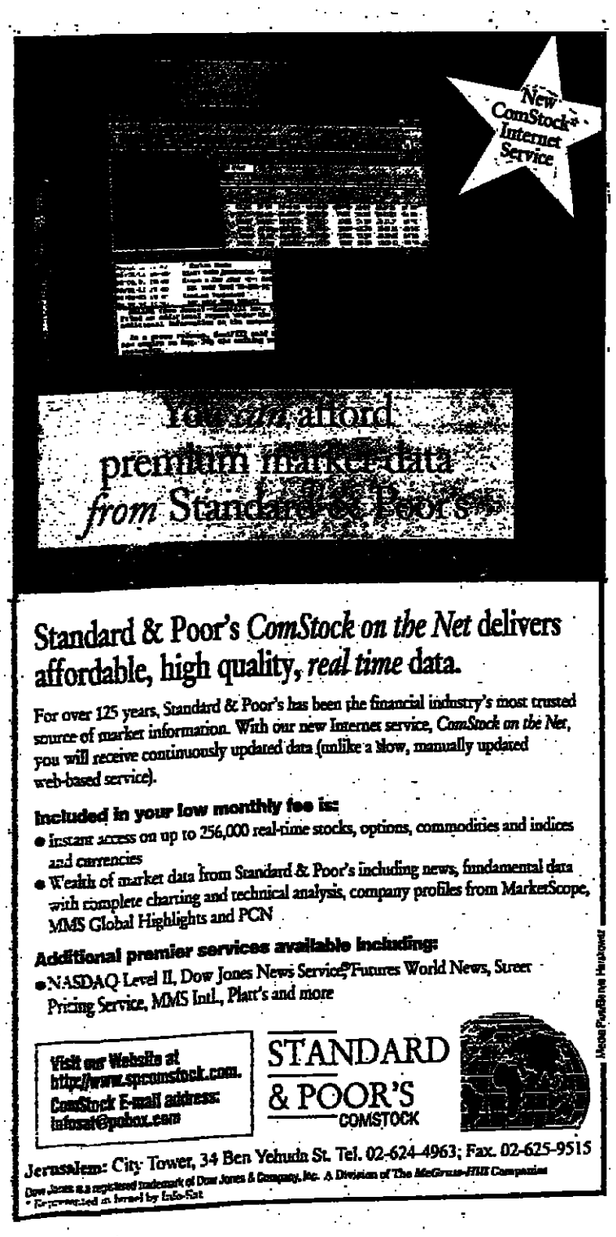
(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (23.1.97)

	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep.
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	Rates**
Currency basket	3.5850	3.6439	—	—	3.6224
U.S. dollar	3.2664	3.3191	3.21	3.37	3 3030
German mark	1.9949	2.0271	1.96	2.06	2.0120
Pound sterling	5.3438	5.4300	5.25	5.51	5 3946
French franc	0.5910	0.6006	0.58	0.61	0.5965
Japanese yen (100)	2.7426	2.7869	2.69	2.83	2.7693
Dutch florin	1.7762	1.8049	1.74	1.83	1 7915
Swiss franc	2.2914	2.3284	2.25	2.37	2.3125
Swedish krona	0.4536	0.4810	0.44	0.47	0.4575
Norwegian krone	0.5000	0.5081	0.49	0.52	0.5039
Danish krone	0.5227	0.5312	0.51	0.54	0.5273
Finnish mark	0.6709	0.6818	0.65	0.70	0.6778
Canadian dollar	2.4398	2.4792	2.39	2.52	2.4654
Australian dollar	2.5218	2.5625	2.47	2 60	2.5494
S. African rand	0.7062	0.7176	0.61	0 72	0.7139
Belgian franc (10)	0.9672	0.9829	0.95	1.00	0.9758
Austrian schilling (10)	2.8358	2.8816	2.78	2.93	2.8599
Italian lira (1000)	2.0442	2.0772	2.00	2.11	2.0643
Jordanian dinar	4.5400	4.8500	4.54	4.85	4.6490
Egyptian pound	0.9200	1.0000	0.92	1.00	1.0157
ECU	3.8757	3.9363	—	—	3 9099
Irish punt	5.2284	5.3138	5.13	5.39	5.2841
Spanish peseta (100)	2.3801	2.4185	2.33	2.46	2.4005

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI



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Key Representative Rates

US Dollar .....NIS 3.2970 -0.18%

Sterling ....NIS 5.4671 +1.34%

Mark ....NIS 2.0094 -0.13%

INT'L STOCK MARKETS

New York market indexes

	Last	Change
DJ Industrials	6755.75	-94.28
DJ Transport	2348.78	-8.47
DJ Utils	240.43	-0.42
DJ Comp	2115.58	-20.11
NYSE Indust	515.14	-5.15
NYSE Transport	386.04	-2.18
NYSE Comp	409.15	-3.65
S&P 100	762.21	-8.97
S&P Spot Index	777.56	-8.67
AMEX Comp	-	-

NYSE stocks

	Unchanged	Advances	Declines
Share movements	+780	1128	1413

Volume up (in 1000's) 276999
Volume down (in 1000's) 359699

Other stock market indexes

	Last	Change
FTSE 100	4271.5	+52.4
Singapore all-share index	548.86	0
Hong Kong Hang Seng Index	13610.3	-82.4
Israeli Index	233.19	-5.26

Israeli stocks in US

NYSE / AMEX / NASDAQ / OTC	Last	Change
Am Is Pap	40.25	-0.25
Ampal A	5.375	-0.0625
Aryt	-	-
BioTechnology	14.375	-1.375
Carmel Cont	9.625	-0.375
Frutarom (electrochem)	-	-
Elscint	8.25	+0.375
Etz Lavud	8.375	0
Etz Lavud A	5.125	0
Koor Indus.	19.5	-0.5
Laser T.	11.625	-0.25
PEC	20.375	+0.375
Tadiran	28.875	-0.5
AG Associates	6.5	+0.625
Aladdin	12.375	-0.125
Accent	7.5	+0.03125
4TH. Dimension	11.25	-0.5
BVR	5.875	+0.125
Converse	44.25	-1.25
Data (Defense)	5.625	-0.25
DSP Comm.	21.875	-0.125
ECI	22.75	+0
Edu-Soft	3	+0
Electric Fuel	5.875	-0.375
EFR	85.75	-2.25
Ebit	3	+0
Elron	12.375	+0
Eshed Robotec	0.5625	0
M. Systems	7.25	-0.25
Gilat	29.375	+0.25
ISG	31.5	+0.125
Geotek	6.4375	-0.0625
Health Tech	0.53125	-0.0625
Home Center	4.75	+0.25
Idan	0.28125	-0.0625
IIS	2.5	+0
Indigo	8	-0.1875
Int. Tech. USA	1.8125	-0.125
Isramco	0.65625	+0
First Isr Fund	13.25	-0.125
Lanoptics	7.625	+0
Magal	8.25	-0.5
Media-Al	7.75	+0
Mamco Software	18.875	-0.125
Mercury	11.75	-1.75
Magic	9.625	-0.125
Orbotech	16.875	-0.625
Oshap Tech	5.8125	-0.1875
Pharmos	1.6875	-0.1875
Rada	3.5875	+0
Scitex	11.4063	-0.21875
Silicom	6	-0.75
T.A.T. Technol	1.1875	-0.0625
Taro Vit	9.375	+0.875
Teledata	28	+0.5625
Tower Semicond	10.375	+0
Tad. Telecom.	20.5	+0
Teva	58.625	-0.375
TVG	1.75	-0.0625
Vocaltec	7.75	+1.125

(All listings are closing quotes)

Commstock Trading Ltd. (Date 23-JAN-97)

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

NEW YORK

Name	Price	chg
Abs	27	+0.375
AMP Inc	40.875	-1.125
AMR Corp	88	-0.75
ASA	33.875	+0.125
Abbott Labs	54.375	-1.875
Advanced Micro	32.625	-1.125
Aetna Life	78	+0.125
Affiliated Publ	9.5	-0.125
Aflac	42.75	-0.375
Ahmanson (HF)	38.125	+1.125
Air Prods	70.125	+1.75
Alberto-Culv B	50.75	-0.75
Albertson's	34.875	-0.375
Alcan Aluminum	34.5	-0.875
Alco Standard	44.625	-1
Alex & Alex	17.375	+0
Allegheny Power	31.25	-0.375
Allied Signal	70.5	-1.125
Alcoa	67.25	-1.875
Amax	35.75	+0.625
Amdahl Corp	11.625	-0.125
Amerada Hess	59.625	-0.625
Amer Brands	52.875	+0.75
Amer El Power	42.625	-0.25
Amer Express	60.75	-0.75
Amer Genl Corp	40.875	-0.25
Amer Greeting	28.875	-0.25
Amer Home Pr	61.75	-1.375
Amer Intl	117.125	-1.125
Amer Natl Ins	76.5	+0.25
Amer Power Conv	28	-1.125
Amer Stores	42.625	+0.375
Amer T & T	38	-0.875
Ameritech	58.5	-1.25
Ametek Inc	20.75	-0.875
Amgen	55	-0.5
Amoco	87.5	+1.625
Analog Devices	28.875	-1.25
Anheuser-Busch	42.125	-0.875
Aon Corp	63.875	-0.75
Apple Computer	17.25	+0.0625
Applied Magnetics	43.625	+3.625
Archer Daniels	20	-1
Armco	4.25	-0.125
Armstrong World	69.125	+0.125
Asarco	28.625	-0.125
Ashland Coal	27.75	+0.125
Ashland Oil	43.875	+0.125
AST Research	5	-0.0625
Atlantic Richfld	136.125	-0.625
Auto Data Pro	42.625	-0.375
Autodesk	39.5	-0.625
Avery Dennison	35.25	-0.375
Avnet Inc	63	+0.625
Avon Products	60.75	+0.5
Bairnco Corp	7.375	+0
Baker Hughes	37.625	+1
Ball Corp	28.75	-0.75
Bally	-	-
Baltimore Gas	27.375	+0.25
Banc One Corp	43.3125	-0.3125
Bandag	45.75	-0.5
BankAmerica	108.625	-1.375
Bank of Boston	69.625	-0.75
Bank of New Yk	35.75	-1.125
Bankers Trst NY	85.375	-1.875
Barnett Banks	44.25	+0.125
Battle Mount Gd	8.875	+0.25
Bausch & Lomb	33.75	-0.375
Baxter Intl	42.875	-0.5
Bay Network	23.375	-0.25
Becton Dickinson	49.5	+1
Bell Atlantic	67.125	+0.25
Bell Industries	23.5	-0.25
BellSouth	42.5	-1.375
HA Belo Corp	37.375	-0.5
Beneficial Corp	69.875	+1.125
Bethlehem Steel	8.5	-0.125
Beverly Enterpr	12.75	-0.375
Biomet	18	-0.25
Black & Decker	34.125	+1.375
Boeing	110.375	-1.875
Boise Cascade	38.125	-0.375
[illegible] Inc	41.625	+0.125
Briggs & Strtn	44.5	-0.875
Bristol Myrs Sqb	120.75	-2.375
British Airws ADR	95.875	-0.875
Brit Steel ADR	24.875	+0.125
Brit Telecom	59.875	+0.75
Brooklyn Union	28.625	+0.125
Brown Group	15.25	+0
Brown & Sharpe	12.875	-0.75
Browning Ferris	29	+0.5
Brunswick	25.5	+0.5
Burlington Nthn	88.375	+0.875
CBS Inc	21.125	+0
CMS Energy Corp	34.125	+0.5
CPC Intern	77.625	-2.75
CSX Corporation	48.25	-0.875
Cabot Corp	24	+0.375
Campbell Soup	82	-1.75
Capital Cts ABC	88.75	-0.875
Carolina Pwr Lt	37.75	-0.125
Carpenter Tech	38.625	-0.25
Caterpillar	75.375	-0.5
Centerior Energy	10.75	-0.25
Centex Corp	38.75	-0.25
Central & SW	25.5	+0
Ceridian	39	+5.25
Champion Intl	43.125	-0.625
Charming Shoppes	4.6875	-0.0625
Chase Manhattan	91.125	-1.25
Chevron Corp	65.875	-1.25
Cheyenne Software	-	-
Chiquita Brands	14	-0.5
Chrysler	34.75	-1.25
Chubb Corp	54.25	-0.75
Cisco	71.75	-1.9375
Citicorp	112.75	-0.28125
Citizens	-	-
Clevland Cliffs	48.5	-0.625
Clorox	110.875	+0.125
Coastal Corp	48.875	-0.625
Coca Cola	57.5	-1.875
Coca Cola Ent	58.125	+0.625
Colgate Palmolv	95.125	-0.5
Comcast Corp A	17.375	+0
Compaq	84	+0.625
Computer Ass Int	43.875	+0.375
Computer Sci	71.25	-1.875
Conagra	50.875	-0.75
Cons Edison	31.25	-0.25
Cons Freightways	24.875	+0.875
Cons Nat Gas	57	+0
Cons Rail	106.375	-1.125
Cooper Inds	43.125	-1.875
Coors (Adolph)	18.625	-0.3125
Corning Inc	38.625	-0.125
Crane	27.625	-0.625
CromptonKnowles	18.875	+0.125
Crown Cork Seal	58.125	-0.625
Cummins Engine	52.375	+0.5
Curtiss-Wright	58	+0
Cypress Semicon	13.375	-0.375
Cyprus Mineral	23.25	-0.125
Cytec Indust.	40.125	-0.25
DQE	28.625	-0.5
Dana Corp	33.625	+0.125
Data General	18.375	+0.75
Dayton Hudson	37	-0.5
De Beers	30	+0.125
Deere	42	+0.75
Delmarva Pwr & L	19.625	-0.125
Delta Air Lines	82.375	-0.375
Deluxe Corp	31	+0.5
Detroit Edison	32.625	+0.375
Dial Corp Del	14.75	+0.125
Diebold Inc	57.125	-2.125
Digital Equip	34.75	-0.375
Dillard Dep St	28.5	-1
Disney (Walt)	70.625	-0.125
Dominion Res	40.125	-0.125
Donnelley (RR)	32	+0.625
Dover Corp	50.125	+0.25
Dow Chemicals	79.75	-1.375
Dow Jones	35.5	+1
Dresser	34.5	+0.875
DSC Comm	20.875	+0.25
Duke Power	47.75	+0.5
Dun & Bradst	24.75	+0
Du Pont	107.5	-1.5
Du Pont	107.5	-1.5
E G & G Corp	21	+0.75
Eastern Ents	34.125	-0.875
Eastman Kodak	88.5	+0.75
Eaton Corp	71.875	-0.125
Echlin Inc	30.75	-0.25
Emerson Elec	97.875	-2.125
Engelhard Corp	20.375	+0
Enron Corp	43.125	-0.375
Enserch Corp	23	-0.25
Entergy Corp	27.625	+0
Enzo Biochem	17.375	-0.875
Ethyl Corp	9.25	-0.25
Exxon	102.75	-3.25
FMC Corp	69	-1.5
FPL Group	45.875	-0.625
Fedders Corp	8	-0.25
Federal Express	48.625	+0
Federal Mogul	22.875	-0.125
Fed Nat Mtge	38.5	-0.875
Federal Ppr Bd	-	-
Fieldcrest Can	16.25	+0.125
First Bank Sys	72.875	-0.5
First Chicago	55.25	+0.625
First Interst	-	-
First Union	81	-1
Fruit of the Loom	40.25	+0.625
Fst Mississippi	-	-
Fst Union Rlty	12.625	-0.25
Fleet Finl Grp	54.75	-0.25
Fleetwood Enterp	25.75	-0.125
Fleming Cos Ok	17.125	-0.25
Florida Prog	32.125	-0.125
Fluor Corp	66.875	-0.875
Food Lion Inc	9.125	-0.1875
Ford Motor	33.75	-0.5
Foster Wheeler	38.875	-0.625
Freeport McMor	31.375	+0.25
Galoob Toys	15.625	-0.375
GATX Corp	48.875	-0.75
GTE Corp	44.75	-0.625
Gannett	76.625	+0.75
Gap Inc Del	29.625	-0.875
Gencorp	19.25	+0.25
Gen Am Invest	21.25	+0.125
Gen Dynamics	70.875	-0.375
Gen Electric	104.375	-3
Gen Mills	67.375	+0.75
Gen Motors	61.875	+0
Gen Motors H	62.75	-0.375
Gen Public Util	35.25	+0
Gen Reinsurnce	153.125	+0
Gen Signal	45.875	+0.125
Gen DataComm	10.125	-0.25
Genuine Parts	43.5	-1
Georgia Pac	74.5	-1.75
Gillette	83	-1.5
Glaxo ADR	30.625	+0.375
Golden W Finl	66.5	+0
Goodrich (BF)	38	-0.875
Goodyear Tire	54.375	-0.375
Grace (W&R)	52.5	-0.25
Grainger (WW)	76.625	-3.375
Grt Atl Pac Tea	30.625	+0.125
Grt Central Mine	7.5	+0
Gt Western Finl	32.125	+0
Halliburton	71.625	+2.625
Hanna (MA)	21.375	+0
Harcourt	48	-0.875
Harley Davidson	44.375	-0.125
Harnischfeger	45.625	-0.25
Harrah's Ent	17.75	-0.125
Harris Corp	78.375	+1.75
Harsco Corp	69.375	+0.5
Hartmarx	5.75	+0
Hasbro	40.125	+0.25
Hecla Mining	5.625	+0.125
Heinz (HJ)	40.25	-0.5
Helix Technol	32.75	+0.5
Hlmrch & Payne	51.625	+0.25
Hercules	44.375	-0.625
Hershey Foods	43.25	-0.875
Hewlett Packard	52	-1.75
Hilton Hotels	26.25	-0.5
Home Depot	50.125	-1.125
Homestake	13.875	+0
Honeywell	69.5	-1.125
Hormel (Geo)	25.125	-0.25
Household Intl	97.75	+0
Houston Inds	23	-0.25
Humana	18.5	+0.25
Humana	18.5	+0.25
IBM	152	-6
Illinova Corp	27.125	+0
Illinois Tool	77.875	-1.625
INCO	33.75	-0.375
Ingersoll Rand	44.125	-1
Inland Steel	19.125	-0.125
Intel Corp	151.75	-0.375
Intergraph	10.3125	+0.3125
Interlake	3.5	+0
Intl Fmly Ent B	17.5	+0.5
Intl Flav & Fr	45.125	-0.375
Intl Multifoods	18	-0.125
Intl Paper	41.375	-1.375
Interpublic	48.875	-0.5
ITT Corp	44	-0.125
ITT Corp	44	-0.125
James River Bs	34.25	-0.5
Jefferson Plt	58	-0.125
Johnson & J	58.25	-1.125
K Mart	11.125	-0.125
Kaiser Alum	13.375	+0.125
Kellogg	68	-1.125
KLA Instruments	43.375	+0.625
Kennametal	41.5	-0.125
Kerr-McGee	71.875	+0.125
KeyCorp	51.625	-0.875
Kimberly-Clark	99	-3.25
King World Prod	38.75	+0.375
Knight Ridder	38.125	-0.125
Kroger	49.75	+1.625
LSI Logic	34.75	-1.25
Leggett & Platt	33	+0.375
Leucadia Natl	27	-0.125
Lilly (Eli)	82.125	-2.25
Limited Inc	17.375	+0.125
Linear Technol	48.625	+0.125
Lincoln Nat	53	-0.75
Litton	45	-0.75
Liz Claiborne	43.625	-0.5
Lockheed Corp	91.125	+0.875
Loews Corp	98.125	+0.875
Lone Star	35.625	+0.25
Long Island Lt	22.875	+0.25
Longs Drug Strs	24.875	-0.125
Loral Corp	18.375	-0.625
Louisiana Land	65.875	+1.125
Louisiana Pacif	20.625	-0.375
Lowe's Co Inc	33.875	-1.25
Lucent Tech	58.125	+1.125
Lubrizol	34.375	+0.5
Madge	14.5	+0.125
MCI Commun	35	+0.25
Mallinckrodt	40.875	-1.25
Manor Care	25.75	-1
Mapco Inc	32.875	-0.625
Marriott	53.75	-0.5
Mrsh & McLn	108.125	+0.375
Martin Marietta	146.25	+1
Marvel	1.875	-0.125
Masco Corp	34.375	-0.625
Massmutual Corp	39.625	+0.125
Mattel Inc	28.375	-0.75
Maytag Corp	21.5	-0.125
McDermott	17.75	+0.125
McDonalds	46.5	+1.25
McDonnell Dglas	69	-1
McGraw Hill	49.25	+0.125
McKesson Corp	55.125	-0.125
Mead Corp	60.25	-0.5
Medtronic	68.625	+0.125
Mellon Bk	74.625	-1.5
Melville Corp	-	-
Mentor Graphics	10.25	+0.0625
Mercantile Strs	47.75	-0.5
Merck Inc	86.25	-2.125
Meredith Corp	53.5	-0.375
Merrill Lynch	84.125	-2.75
Micron Technol	31.875	+1.75
Microsoft Corp	94.75	-2.625
Millipore	42.5	-1.5
Mine Safety App	58	-0.75
Minnesota Mine	81.625	-2.375
Mitchell Energy	23	+0.625
Mobil Corp	128.25	-0.875
Mobile Telecom	9.75	+0.25
Molex Inc	35.875	+0.625
Monarch Macht	8.875	+0.125
Monsanto	38.5	+1.5
Morgan (JP)	102.5	-1.25
Morton Intl	41.625	+0.25
Motorola Inc	58	-1.375
Murphy Oil	51.75	+0.125
Nacco Inds	52.75	-0.375
Nalco Chemical	37.25	+0
Nashua Corp	12.125	+0.125
Natl City Corp	48	-0.5
Natl Semi	25.125	+0.25
Natl Serv Ind	38.25	-0.375
NatWest Bank	78.875	-0.125
Navistar Int	10	+0.25
Netscape	39	-2.5
New England El	35.125	+0.375
News Corp	21	-0.25
NY State El Gas	23	+0.875
NY Times A	40.125	-0.375
Newmont Mining	39.375	-0.25
Niag Mohawk	10.625	-0.125
Nicor Inc	35.875	-0.625
Nike Inc	66.375	-1.25
NL Industries	12.75	+0.25
Noble Affil	46.25	+0.875
Nordstrom	39	-0.125
Norfolk Southrn	87.5	-0.625
Northeast Util	13	-0.125
Novell	10.625	-0.375
Nthn States Pwr	47.375	-0.25
Northrop	77.625	-0.75
Norwest Corp	46.125	-0.625
NSI	11.4375	+0.8125
Nynex Corp	50.5	+0
Occidental Pet	26	-0.25
Ogden Corp	20.125	+0.125
OEA	47	-0.375
Ohio Casualty	37.125	-0.75
Ohio Edison	23.5	+0.25
Olin Corp	38.625	-0.625
Omnicom Group	48.125	-1.75
Oneok Inc	29.75	-1
Oracle Systems	40.5	-1.875
Oryx Energy Co	23.375	-0.375
Oshkosh B'gosh	14.5	+0.25
Outboard Marine	17.375	-0.125
Overseas Ship	17	-0.5
Owens Corning	48.375	-1.75
PHH Group	48.625	-0.375
PNC Financial	38.375	-1.125
PPG Industries	54.25	+0.125
Paccar Inc	64.25	-0.5
Pacificorp	21.125	-0.125
Pac Enterprises	30.25	-0.5
Pac Gas & Elect	22.125	+0
Pac Telesis	38.5	+0.5
Pall Corp	23	+0.375
Panh Eastern	47	+0.5
Parker Drilling	10.25	+0.5
Parker Hannifin	42.125	-0.25
Penney(JC)	48	-1
Pennsyl Pwr Lt	23.75	+0.25
Pennzoil	62.375	-0.25
People's Energy	34.375	-0.375
Pepsico	34.5	+2.5
Perkin Elmer	68.625	-3
Pfizer	87.375	-0.875
Pharmacia & Upj	37.5	+0.125
Phelps Dodge	72.875	-1.125
Philadel Elec	28	+0.125
Philip Morris	117.5	-2.375
Philips Elec	40.625	-0.25
Phillips Pet	44.875	-0.125
Pioneer Hi Bred	68.125	-1.5
Pitney Bowes	55.625	+0
Policy Mgt Sys	44.25	-1.125
Polycom	4.375	+0.125
Potash Corp	84.625	-0.625
Potomac El Pwr	25.25	+0
Procter&Gamble	110.625	-1.375
Pub Svc Enterpr	28.125	-0.25
Pug Snd Pwr	25.625	+0.5
Quaker Oats	38.625	-1
Qualcomm	57.625	-1.375
Quanex Corp	28	+0.125
RJR Nabisco	33.75	-0.125
Ralston Purina	77.375	-0.75
Rank Orgnsn ADR	13.75	-0.25
Raychem Corp	88	+0
Raytheon	48	-1.125
Reebok Intl	42.5	-0.375
Reynolds Reyn A	27.375	+0
Reynolds Metals	60.25	-2.5
Rite Aid Corp	40.625	+0.5
Roadway Services	21.5	-0.5
Rockwell Intl	62.5	-1
Rohm & Haas	81	-1.25
Rohr Industries	22.375	+0.125
Rouse	31	-0.125
Rowan	26.25	+0.25
Royal Dutch	173.75	-1.125
Rubbermaid	23	-0.125
Ruddick	14.25	-0.625
Russell Corp	31.625	+0.75
Ryder System	28.375	-0.875
Rymer Co	0.3125	+0.03125
SPS Technology	63.25	+0
Safeco Corp	38.75	-0.125
Safety-Kleen	18.125	-0.25
St Paul's Cos	69.25	+1
Salomon Inc	53.375	+0
San Diego Gas	22.75	+0.125
Sara Lee Corp	38	-0.25
Schering Plough	73.5	-0.5
Schlumberger	110.5	+0.125
Scientif Atlanta	18.5	-0.625
Scripps	35.625	-0.25
Seagate Tech	49.75	+0.875
Seagram	40.25	-0.75
Sears Roebuck	49.125	-2
Sensormatic Elec	16.25	-0.25
Service Corp I	27.625	-1.125
Service Master	25.875	+0
Shared Medical	48.75	-1
Shell Trans	108.25	+0
Sherwin Wilms	55	+0.125
Shoney's Inc	7.625	-0.125
Sigma Aldrich	31.75	+0.25
Silicon Graphics	27.25	-1
Skyline Corp	23.875	-0.25
Smith Intl	46	+2.5
SmKline Bchm A	70.625	+0.5
Snap-On-Tools	37.375	-0.5
Sonat	52	-1.375
Sonocco Prods	26.5	-0.125
Sony Corp ADR	65.125	-0.25
Southdown	28.5	-0.5
Southern Co	22.75	-0.375
Sth N. Eng Tel	38.875	-0.125
Southw Airlines	21.625	+0.125
Southwestn Bell	54	+0.5
Spring Inds	43.25	+0.375
Sprint Corp	40	+0.125
Standard Prods	24.75	+0
Stanley Works	38	-1
Stone Container	14.625	-0.875
Storage Technol	53.875	+1.125
Stratus Comp	30.5	-1.375
Sun America	2.5	-0.25
Sun Company	26.625	+0.5
Sundstrand	45.25	-0.25
Sun Microsystms	33	+0.25
Suntrust	49.25	-1.125
Supervalu	30.625	+0.375
Symantec	17.875	+0.1875
Sysco Corp	31.875	-0.125
TJX Cos Inc	41.75	-1.875
TRW Inc	50.875	-0.875
Tambrands	41.125	-0.125
Tandem Comp	14.875	+0.25
Tandy Corp	43.375	+0.5
Telecom Corp	14.25	-0.5
Temple Inland	54.75	-1.5
Tenneco	49.5	-0.75
Teradyne	28.75	+1.25
Tesoro Pet	14.375	+0.5
Texaco	108.375	+1.375
Texas Instrmts	71	+7.25
Texas Utilities	41.625	+0
Textron	98.5	+2.25
Thiokol	51.875	-0.75
Thomas & Betts	46	-0.25
ThreeCom	73.5	-0.25
Time Warner	38.75	-0.375
Times-Mirror	48.625	-1.375
Timken	48.125	+1.25
Torchmark	51.875	-0.875
Tosco Corp	81.375	-0.125
Total Pet N Am	10	-0.25
Toys R Us	35.75	-0.25
Transamerica	81.125	-0.125
Transco Energy	58.375	-1.125
Travelers Grp	52.375	-1.25
Tribune	87.125	-0.625
TRINOVA Corp	40.25	+0.875
Triton Energy	50.375	-0.25
TWA	8	+0.0625
Tyco Labs	58.25	-1.5
Tyler	2.25	+0
UAL Corp	59	+1.125
USG Corp	36	-0.5
UST Inc	31.625	-0.375
USX Marathon	27.375	+0.375
USX-US Steel	31.5	+0.25
Unicom Corp	27.625	-0.25
Unilever NV	90.25	+0.375
Union Camp	48.375	-2
Union Carbide	43.625	-0.125
Union Electric	38.875	-0.25
Union Pacific	61.625	-1.625
Unisys Corp	7.125	+0
USAIR Group	23	-0.5
USF&G Corp	21.125	+0.125
US Home	25.625	-0.375
US Life	39	+0.125
US Robotics	68.125	-4.125
US Surgical	38.625	-1.125
US Trust	63	+4.25
US West	32.875	-0.25
United Tech	69.625	+3.125
Unocal Corp	42.5	+0.25
VF Corp	67.75	-0.5
Valero Energy	32.375	+0
Varian Assoc	63.75	-0.75
Viacom Inc	33.625	-0.625
Vishay	25.625	+0.75
Vulcan Materials	57.5	+2.125
Wachovia	57.25	-0.625
Walgreen	40.875	-0.5
Wal-Mart Stores	22.75	-0.375
Warner-Lambert	78.625	-0.125
Wash Gas Light	22.125	+0
Washington Post	330	-8.25
Waste Mgmnt Inc	34.625	+1.375
Watkins-Johnson	24.5	-0.125
Weis Markets	32.125	+0
Wells Fargo	287.125	+0
Wendy's Intl	22.625	+0
Westinghouse El	19.375	-0.5
Westvaco	29.75	-0.5
Weyerhaeuser	48.875	-2.25
Whirlpool	50.625	-0.75
Whitman	22.75	-0.875
Willamette Ind	-	-
Williams Co	40.125	-0.375
Winn Dixie Stos	30.75	-0.75
Woolworth	20.75	-0.125
WorldCommunications	26	-0.8125
Worthington Ind	19.75	-0.25
Wrigley	57.25	-0.125
Xerox	59.5	+1.375
Yellow Freight	17.25	+0.125
Zenith Electron	11.125	-0.125
Zero Co	22.75	+0.25

LONDON

Name	Price	chg
Allied Domecq	422.5	+9.5
BAT Inds	501.5	+3.5
BT	429	+7.5
BTR	266.5	+6.5
Barclays	1163.5	+28
Bass	867.5	+5
Boots	647	+4
British Airways	594	+4.5
British Gas	226.5	-2
General Electric	409	+1
Grand Met	463	+14.5
Glaxo	958.5	+34
Guinness	449.5	+3
HSBC (75p shs)	1474	+25
Hanson	82	-1
ICI	747.5	+0.5
Land Securities	788	+3
Lloyds Bank	468.5	+1.5
Marks & Spencer	484.5	-4.5
NatWest Bank	791	+10
Prudential	535.5	+9.5
Reuters	700	+16
Sainsbury	392	+5.5
Shell Transport	1069.5	+18
Unilever	1376.5	+19.5

PARIS

Name	Price	chg
Accor	691	+36
Air Liquide	868	+0
Alcatel Alsthom	472	-0.6
BSN	798	+8
Canal	1231	+10
Carrefour	3324	+54
Chargeurs	-	-
Club Med	355	+4
Cred Lyon (CI)	195	+8
Elf Aquitaine	533	-2
Euro Disney	10.5	-0.5
LVMH	1506	+15
Lafarge Coppee	338	+6.5
Lyonn Eaux	518	+3
Michelin B	298.5	+7.5
Moulinex	139.5	+0.6
Paribas	378	+6
Pernod Ricard	308	-1.1
Peugeot	547	-6
Saint Gobain	797	+1
Total B	468	+3

FRANKFURT

Name	Price	chg
Allianz AG	1040	-30
BASF	59.65	-0.09
Bayer	61.96	-0.46
Commerzbank	55	-3
Daimler-Benz	116.05	+1.1
Deutsche Bank	83.73	+0.71
Dresdner Bk	54.2	-0.48
Hoechst	66.65	-0.63
Lufthansa	21.25	-0.15
Mannesmann	648	+5
Metallgesellschaft	33.27	-0.18
Porsche	1340	-28
Siemens	79.4	+0.49
Volkswagen	766	+6.5

Commstock Trading Ltd.

Stocks fall on rate pessimism

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

FELICE MARANZ

240.59 -0.43% Two-Sided Index

249.35 -0.65% Maof Index

Stock indexes fell amid pessimism the Bank of Israel won't cut interest rates when it decides monetary policy in days ahead.

"There's the feeling the central bank won't cut rates at all, or will only cut a symbolic amount," said Avi Meir, investment manager at Tel Aviv's Israel General Bank.

The country's largest holding companies, including Clal (Israel) and Koor, led losses. Clal fell 1 percent and Koor fell 1.5%. Bezeq declined 1.75% after government officials said they intend to sell more shares in the company.

The Maof Index fell 0.65% to 249.35 and the Two-Sided Index fell 0.43% to 240.59.

The general bond index rose 0.1%. In the week, the Maof Index rose 0.5% and the Two-Sided Index rose 0.6%.

Of 969 shares trading across the exchange, about eight shares fell for every five that rose. Some NIS 116.3m. ($35.2m.) worth of shares changed hands, NIS 29.7m. below Wednesday's level and about 37% higher than December's daily average of NIS 84.6m.

Investors had been optimistic Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel would reduce rates until money supply figures came out in recent days, said Meir. Israel's M1 money rose 2.2% in December from November.

"M1 wasn't good and people know that (Frenkel) doesn't like to cut rates," Meir said. "He wants to see the budget cut." Frenkel has made rate reductions conditional on the government reining in spending.

Declining shares on the Maof Index included banks. Bank Hapoalim fell 1%, Bank Leumi fell 2%, and Discount Bank fell 0.25%.

In days ahead investors will also be watching local companies influenced by trading in New York.

Those companies include Teva which rose 3.25% in Tel Aviv after its American Depositary Receipts rose to a six-month high of 57⅞ yesterday. In early trading Teva's ADRs were up ¼.

Chemical shares on the Maof Index were mixed yesterday.

Dead Sea Works fell 1.25%; Dead Sea Bromine rose 2%, and Makhteshim Chemical Works fell 1.75%. Israel Chemicals closed unchanged.

Supersol fell 0.25%; Osem Investments closed unchanged and Shekem fell 0.25%. Shekem's parent company, Elco Holdings, rose 2.5%.

On the Two-Sided Index, Polgat rose 9.25%. The company gained amid speculation it would merge with Kitan, said Meir. Kitan's shares, also on the index, rose 0.25%. Polgat's rose more as they were less expensive than Kitas, he said. (Bloomberg)

Due to technical difficulties, the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange data does not appear. We apologize for the inconvenience.

INT'L MONEY MARKETS

Dollar crossrates (US)

		Last	Change
Pound:	spot	1.6305	-0.0071
	Mar.future (CME)	1.627	-0.0056
D-mark:	spot	1.6332	-0.0069
	Mar.future (CME)	0.6121	+0.0015
S-franc:	spot	1.4165	-0.012
	Mar.future (CME)	0.7066	+0.0046
Yen:	spot	119.32	+0.46
	Mar.future (CME)	0.008418	-4.4e-005
CanDlr:	spot	1.3449	+0.0065
	Mar.future (CME)	0.7471	-0.0037
AusDlr:	spot	0.7717	-0.0032
	Mar.future (CME)	0.7717	-0.0043
F-franc:	spot	5.5075	-0.03
Ir Lira:	spot	1595.5	-2
Nlg:	spot	1.833	-0.0087
AutShlg:	spot	11.5225	+0.0024
Rand:	spot	4.623	-0.002
ECU:	spot	1.1851	-0.0014
Bonds	Mar.future	110.27	-0.06
S and P	Mar.future	779	-12.6

Libor rates

		Last	Change
Dollar	3 months	5.5625	0
Dollar	6 months	5.6875	0
Dollar	12 months	5.9375	+0.0313
Sterling	3 months	6.25	0
Sterling	6 months	6.4375	0
Sterling	12 months	6.75	0
S-franc	3 months	1.8125	+0.0313
S-franc	6 months	1.8125	0
S-franc	12 months	1.9062	0
D-mark	3 months	3.0938	0
D-mark	6 months	3.0938	0
D-mark	12 months	3.1562	0
Yen	3 months	0.4375	0
Yen	6 months	0.4375	0
Yen	12 months	0.5	0

(Spot market listings are from approximately 23:30 Israel time. All others are closing quotes.)

Commstock Trading Ltd. (Date 23-JAN-97)

Foreign financial data courtesy of **CommStock Trading Ltd.**
Futures, Options, Stocks, Bonds and Mutual Funds
34 Ben Yehuda St., Jerusalem,
Tel. 02-244963, 03-5758826
Fax. 02-244876

INT'L COMMODITIES AND METALS

US commodities

	Last	Change
Cocoa (Mar) (CEC)	1260	-30
Coffee (Mar) (CEC)	140.05	+4.75
Sugar no.11 (Mar) (CEC)	10.15	-0.02
Wheat (Mar) (CBOT)	376.75	-3.5
Soybean (Mar) (CBOT)	741.25	+0.75
Orange juice (Mar)(CEC)	83.9	-2.95
Crude oil light (Mar)(CEC)	24.19	0

London commodities

	Last	Change
Cocoa (Mar) (LCE)	882	-12
Coffee (Mar) (LCE)	1570	-25
Brent crude oil (Mar)(IPE)	2242	-5

Spot market metals (US)

		Last	Change
Gold:	spot	351.75	+0.75
Silver:	spot	4.83	+0.13

New York metal futures

	Last	Change
Gold (Feb)	352.8	+0.8
Silver (Mar)	4.875	+0.152
Platinum (Jan)	358.5	+1
Palladium (Mar)	123.65	+0.05
High-grade copper (Mar)	1.071	-0.002

London metal fixes

	Last	Change
Gold AM fix	349.8	-0.3
Gold PM fix	348	-3.2
Silver fix	473	+3.3

Month in parentheses signals contract exp. date

(Spot market listings are from approximately 23:30 Israel time. All others are closing quotes.)

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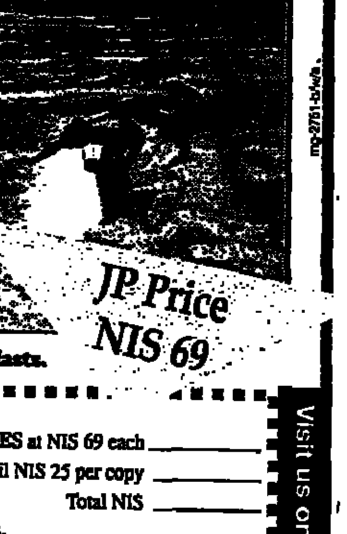
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WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

London leads Europe's latest bull run

LONDON (Reuter) – Major European bourses hit fresh closing peaks yesterday as favorable currency movements boosted prospects for exporters, injecting new life into the current bull run.

London stocks raced ahead to finish at a record for the fifth time this year as a suddenly weakening pound held out the promise of bigger profits for overseas-earning companies.

Frankfurt closed at an all-time high as the dollar dug in at a 2-1/2 year peak against the mark, helping German exporters.

Paris also broke into uncharted territory to make a record close, led by a boom in financial shares.

Stockholm, Brussels, Zurich, Oslo, and Helsinki also posted records in a hectic day of trading for European bourses.

But London was the star in Europe's latest bull run thanks to the pound and a growing belief that British base rates would remain steady for the foreseeable future.

"The theme of today has been sterling," one dealer said. "It's helped the dollar-earners which has pushed the market higher."

Investors, with an eye on the weaker pound, went on a buying spree, trading the FTSE index up by 1.25 percent to a record close of 4,271.5 points, eclipsing the previous best set on Wednesday.

Sterling was battered overnight in Asia as a big sell-off in the currency dragged down it from Wednesday's 52-month record levels against the mark. It was at 2.6724 marks in late European trading, five pfennigs below its 2.7240 high of yesterday.

The pound's sharp fall follows months of gains as the prospect of rising British interest rates sucked speculative cash into the currency.

But Wednesday's weaker-than-expected British retail sales data changed currency dealers' minds, suggesting British rates could be on hold until after the election due by May.

And companies which had taken the brunt of the damage from sterling's strength in recent weeks led the market's charge, with pharmaceuticals, engineering, and drinks shares among the day's best performers.

The bullish mood was also encouraged by a strong performance in New York where shares bounced back after ending in the minus column on Wednesday, weighed down by tumbling IBM shares.

French shares hit a record close for the second day running. The CAC-40 index ended at 2461.25 after financial stocks blazed a trail through the market.

Financial stocks climbed strongly after Societe Generale upped its 1996 profit forecast. Societe Generale and Credit Commercial de France (CCF) jumped, while other financial blue chips advanced.

In Frankfurt, the DAX share index clawed back early losses to close at a record 3,033.46 points. Frankfurt has benefited greatly from the stronger dollar because of the large number of exporting firms listed.

With the main focus of the currency markets on sterling, the dollar was largely unchanged against the mark and made gains on the yen in late European trading.

WALL STREET REPORT

Dow plunges 94 points

NEW YORK (AP) — Stocks plunged yesterday afternoon as a jump in interest rates triggered an avalanche of profit-taking, yanking the Dow Jones industrial average back from its first foray above 6,900.

The Dow, up more than 56 points shortly after 2 p.m., slid to a loss of nearly 108 points before steadying and finishing with a drop of 94.28 points at 6,755.75. Despite the drop, the Dow has still advanced about 4.8 percent this year.

Broader measures also fell sharply after spending most of the session at record levels.

The Dow had rallied as a series of impressive earnings reports from United Technologies, McDonald's and Texaco helped make a distant memory out of Wednesday's disappointment over IBM's results.

But the momentum died as bonds turned lower, boosting interest rates, as the market absorbed a new supply of securities from a government auction of $12.5 billion in new 5-year Treasury notes.

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CAPITAL 02-679-4911 GERMAN Colony, 3, spacious, 1st floor, quiet, large succah balcony, storeroom, parking.

DOR - REVADIM 02-673-1362, ARNONA, immediate, 5 + garden + porch. $405,000. special, private. SHIRAN EXCLUSIVE.

GERMAN COLONY (CREMIEUX) 128 sq.m., 4+ garden, $450,000. Exclusive DE PRONT ESTATES. Tel. 02-566-3314, 052-601-680.

GILO, INTERESTING SELECTION of 4 & 5 room apartments. HABITAT REAL ESTATE. Tel. Shuli 02-561-1222.

HIRSCHENBERG - HAGRA, 4, 1st floor, southern, renovated, $420,000. Tel. 02-622-0190, evenings - 02-678-0531.

KING DAVID ST., 2, luxurious, view of Old City, prestigious building with pool. ALEX LOSKY REAL ESTATE. 19 King David St. Tel. 02-623-5595.

KIRYAT MOSHE, 3.5, 4th floor, solar heating, breathtaking view. Tel. 02-997-4476, 050- 395-774 (NS).

MA'ALOT DAFNA, 4, 6th floor, elevator, balcony with view, storage room. ALEX LOSKY REAL ESTATE. 19 King David St. Tel. 02-623-5595.

NEAR CENTRAL HOTEL, 4, new + heating, elevator, $410,000. Tel. 02-538-4293, 02-537-0128 (weekdays).

OLD KATAMON (NEAR MOSHAVA), 4, large, 2nd floor, balconies, store room, parking, fine building, excellent location. SHIRAN through ALEX LOSKY REAL ESTATE. 19 King David St. Tel. 02-623-5595.

PALMACH AREA, 4 very large, 2nd floor, balconies, storage room, parking, quiet location. SHIRAN through ALEX LOSKY REAL ESTATE. 19 King David St. Tel. 02-623-5595.

RAMAT ESHKOL (GIVAT Hamivtar), villa, 220 sq.m., large garden, only $560,000. AM-GAR. Tel. 02-581-6833.

SPECTACULAR, REHAVIA / DISKIN building plot for detached house & garden. HABITAT REAL ESTATE. Tel. Ehud 02-561-1222.

TALBIEH, SUPERB LOCATION, stylized building, magnificently renovated, private heating, keys at AMBASSADOR. Tel. 02-5618101.

UZIEL, 6, PANORAMIC view, quiet, dividable, investment opportunity. $385,000. Tel. 02-643-0892.

2 ROOM APARTMENT, Italian Colony, Hildersheimer Street, Jerusalem. Tel. 02-652-1535.

FOR SALE IN JERUSALEM:

TALPIOT - MUST SELL!! 4 rooms, new, 1st floor, balconies, parking $290,000

TALBIEH (Ahad Ha'am): spectacular penthouse, 9.5 rooms, luxurious, large terrace, view, storage-room, parking

TALBIEH: 5 rooms with garden, Arab style, luxurious, private entrance

BAKA: Special building, 6 rooms, large garden, new, spacious, private entrance $560,000

FRENCH-HILL (Tzameret-Habirah): 6 rooms, luxurious, large balcony $375,000

RECHAVIA: 4 room apartment, with garden $320,000

Exclusive Agents: ANGLO-SAXON Real Estate Agency Jerusalem - 2 Hasoreq St. Tel. 02-6251161 (Fax. 02-6259207) Israel's leading real estate organization

ACADEMY HOUSE, MAGNIFICENT, 4 rooms, superb interior design, storeroom, swimming pool. Keys with Ambassador. Tel. 02-561-8101.

ABU-TOR, ARAB HOUSE 4, designed interior, absolutely unique, + penthouse. ORIGINAL REALTY. Tel. 02-623-6252.

ARMON HANATZIV, 4 rooms, 1.5 conviences, garden, storeroom, solar boiler. Tel. 02-672-0268.

ARMON HANATZIV, (EL RAM), attractive 4 rooms. Ground floor with private entrance and garden. Excellent location. Tel. 02-671-5067.

ARNONA, PENT-COTTAGE, 180 sq.m., view, parking. No agents. Tel. 02-623-3985, 052-787-168.

ARNONA, STYLISH 4 + studio, storeroom, sheltered garden. Exclusive CORRINNE DAVAR. Tel. 02-673-3385.

BAKA, 3 ROOMS, quick sale! Third floor, good investment. "HABITAT REAL ESTATE" exclusive. Ehud, Tel. 02-561-1222.

BAKA, WELL APPOINTED cottage, 5 + basement, garden, parking, exclusive CORRINNE DAVAR. Tel. 02-673-3385.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

Notices in this feature, which appears every Friday, are charged at NIS 35.10 per line, including VAT, Insertion every Friday of the month costs NIS 111.15 per line, including VAT.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

TORA PORTION *Beshelah*

HAIFA-CHRISTIAN

BEIT ELIAHU (EVANGELICAL Messianic Congregation) Haifa. 43 Meir Street. Tel. 04-523581.

JER.-CHRISTIAN

JERUSALEM BAPTIST CHURCH - The Baptist House Center, #4 Narkis Street, Sunday, 11 a.m. Tel. 02-6255942.

REDEEMER CHURCH, Lutheran, Muristan Rd. Old City, Jerusalem. Sunday services: English 9:00 a.m. German 10:30 a.m. Tel 276111,281049.

JERUSALEM

HEBREW UNION COLLEGE, 13 King David St. Shabbat morning service, 9:30 a.m.

MORESHET YISRAEL – Conservative 4 Agron. Dr. Avraham Feder, Rabbi. Services: Minha 4:50 p.m. Shaharit 8:30 a.m., Minha 4:05p.m.. Daily Minyan 7:00 a.m.

SHARON

COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP. Non-denom. Sat., 10:00 to noon. Near ACE/Shefayim exit-Haifa Hwy. Call Karson 09-955-6494, Luke 09-954-2813.

TEL AVIV-CHRISTIAN

BAPTIST VILLAGE CONGREGATION, 3 km. north of Petah Tikva, near Yarkon Junction. Sabbath Bible study Saturday 9:45 a.m. Worship hour, 10:45 a.m. Tel. 09-585245.

Immanuel Church (Lutheran), Tel Aviv-Yafo,15 Beer Hofman (near 17 Eilat Street). Tel. 03-6829654 Saturday service 11 a.m. Service in English every Sunday at 10 a.m.

WHERE TO GO

Notices in this feature, are charged at NIS 35.10 per line, including VAT. Insertion every day of the month costs NIS 585.00 per line, including VAT per month.

WHERE TO GO

HEBREW UNIVERSITY. Tours of the Mount Scopus campus in English, daily Sun.-Thur. 11 a.m. from Bronfman Reception Centre, Sherman Administration Bldg. Buses 4a,9,23,26,28. For info, call 882819.

WHERE TO GO

HAIFA

WHAT'S ON IN HAIFA, dial 04-374253.

JERUSALEM

CONDUCTED TOURS
Tourists and Visitors. come and see the General Israel Orphans Home for Girls, Jerusalem,its manifold activities,and impressively modern buildings. Free Guided tours weekdays, 9-12.Bus no. 14, 24 or 5, Kiryat Moshe. 523291.

ARTGUIDE

Notices in this feature, are charged at NIS 35.10 per line, including VAT. Insertion every day of the month costs NIS 111.15 per line, including VAT per month.

ART GUIDE

HAIFA

THE REUBEN AND EDITH HECHT MUSEUM. (Haifa University). Permanent exhibition:The People of Israel in Eretz Yisrael - Phoenicians on the Northern Coast of Israel in the Biblical Period - Illness and Healing in Ancient Times . Impressionism and the Jewish School of Paris. Open Sun., Mon., Wed., Thur. 10-4; Tue. 10-7. Fri. 10-1. Sat.10-2 ADMISSION FREE.

ART GUIDE

JERUSALEM

Museums
OLD YESHUV COURT MUSEUM. Life in the Jewish community in the Old city, mid-19th century – World War II. 6 Or Hahaim, Jewish Quarter, Old City. Sun.-Thur. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

TEL AVIV

TEL AVIV MUSEUM OF ART. Soviet Photography from the Museum Collection *Andres Serrano: The Morgue; *Zvi Hecker: Sunflower *Lucian Freud: Works from the early 1940s through the mid-1990s;Portraits - by a group of Israeli artists. Ra'anan.Levy: Drawings;Virtual Reality - the domestic and realistic in contemporary Israeli art. HELEN RUBINSTEIN PAVILION FOR CONTEMPORARY ART. Shlomo Ben-David and Arnon Ben-David, The Inverted Campaign. Hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tue.,10a.m.,-10 p.m. Fri., 10:00 a.m.-2, p.m., Sat., 10 a.m.-3:p.m. Meyerhoff Art Education Center. . Tel. 6919155-8.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

FFriday, January 24
Jerusalem: Kupat Holim Clalit, Straus A, 3 Avigdori, 670-6660; Shuafat, Shuafat Road, 581-0108; Dar Aldawa, Herod's Gate, 628-2058.
Tel Aviv: Ahva, 165 Dizengoff, 522-4717; Barak, 109 Jabotinsky, 604-6682.
Ra'anana-Kfar Sava: Arza, 36 Ostrovsky,Ra'anana, 774-1613.
Netanya: Hanassi, 36 Weizmann, 882-3639.
Haifa: Hanassi, 33 Hanassi, 833-3312.
Krayot area: Niv Pharm. 13 Moshe Goshen, Kiryat Motzkin, 870-0715.
Herzliya: Clal Pharm, Beit Merkazim, 6 Maskit (cnr. Sderot Hagalim), Herzliya Pituah, 955-8472, 955-8407. Open 9 a.m. to midnight.
Upper Nazareth: Clal Pharm, Lev Ha'ir Mall, 657-0468. Open 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Saturday, January 25
Jerusalem: (day) Jaffa Gate, 628-3898; (evening) Kupat Holim Clalit, Straus A, 3 Avigdori, 670-6660; (day and evening) Balsam, Salah e-Din, 627-2315; Shuafat, Shuafat Road, 581-0108; Dar Aldawa, Herod's Gate, 628-2058.**Tel Aviv:** Bloch, 32 Bloch, 522-6425; Briut, 28 King George, 528-3731. Till midnight: Superpharm Ramat Aviv, 40 Einstein, Ramat Aviv, 641-3730; Superpharm London Ministore, 4 Shaul Hamelech, 696-0115.
Ra'anana-Kfar Sava: (day) Hagal Hayarok, 8 Haharoshet, Ra'anana, 748-3537; (evening) Narkis, 8 Hativat Golani, Kfar Sava, 761-8248.
Netanya: Geva, 14 Sha'ar Hagai, 882-2695.
Haifa: Carmelit, 6 Eliahu Hanavi, 867-5175.
Krayot area: Superpharm, Hakiryon, 44 Hapalmah, Kiryat Bialik, 877-9320.
Herzliya: Clal Pharm, Beit Merkazim, 6 Maskit (cnr. Sderot Hagalim), Herzliya Pituah, 955-8472, 955-8407. Open 10 a.m. to midnight.

Upper Nazareth: Clal Pharm, Lev Ha'ir Mall, 657-0468. Open 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

DUTY HOSPITALS
Friday, January 24
Jerusalem: Shaare Zedek (internal); Hadassah Ein Kerem (surgery, orthopedics, obstetrics, ophthalmology, ENT); Bikur Holim (pediatrics).
Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center Dana Pediatric Hospital (pediatrics); Tel Aviv Medical Center (internal, surgery).
Netanya: Laniado.

Saturday, January 25
Jerusalem: Hadassah Ein Kerem (internal, surgery, orthopedics, ophthalmology, ENT); Bikur Holim (obstetrics); Shaare Zedek (pediatrics).
Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center Dana Pediatric Hospital (pediatrics); Tel Aviv Medical Center (internal, surgery).
Netanya: Laniado.

POLICE 100

FIRE 102

In emergencies dial 102. Otherwise, dial number of your local station as given in the front of the phone directory.

FIRST AID 101

Magen David Adom
In emergencies dial 101 (Hebrew) or 911 (English) in most parts of the country. In addition:

Ashdod	* 8551333	Kfar Sava	* 9902222
Ashkelon	6551332	Nahariya	* 9912333
Beersheba	* 6274767	Netanya	* 9604444
Beit Shemesh	6523133	Petah Tikva*	9311111
Dan Region	* 5793333	Rehovot	* 9451333
Eilat	* 6332444	Rishon	* 9642333
Haifa	* 8512233	Safed	6920333
Jerusalem	* 6523133	Tel Aviv	* 5460111
Karmiel	* 9985444	Tiberias	* 6792444

* Mobile Intensive Care Unit (MICU) service in the area, around the clock.
Medical help for tourists (in English) 177-022-9110.
The National Poison Control Center at Rambam Hospital, phone 04-852-9205 for emergency calls 24 hours a day, for information in case of poisoning.

Eran – Emotional First Aid. Jerusalem 561-0303, Tel Aviv 546-1111 (children/youth 696-1113), Haifa 867-2222, Beersheba 649-4333, Netanya 625110, Karmiel 988-8770, Kfar Sava 974555, Hadera 634-6789.

Rape Crisis Center (24 hours), Tel Aviv 523-4819, 544-9191 (men), Jerusalem 625-5558, Haifa 853-0533, Eilat 633-1977.

Emergency line for women in distress Sunday-Thursday 24 hrs. a day; Friday 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. 09-505720.

Wizo hotlines for battered women 02-651-4111, 03-546-1133 (also in Russian), 07-637-6310, 08-855-0506 (also in Amharic).

Kupat Holim Information Center 177-022-1906, Sunday-Thursday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Hadassah/Jerusalem Municipal Health Center for Adolescents, 6 Chile St., Kiryat Hayovel, Jlm. Advice by phone 02-643-3882.

Hadassah Medical Organization – Israel Cancer Association telephone support service 02-624-7676.

BAKA: 6 SPACIOUS, stylish, huge garden, private entrance. T.A.C. Tel. 02-563-1764.

BAYIT VEGAN, FOR religious. 3,4 rooms + balcony and/or garden. MISHAB. Tel. 02-625-4181.

BAYIT VEGAN, UZIEL, 4, 1st floor + storage room, panoramic view, lovely & well-organized, new kitchen, $340,000. From Shiran through CANAAN REALTY. Tel. 02-643-2292.

CASPI STREET: MAGNIFICENT private house, incredible view, large garden. T.A.C. Tel. 02-563-1764.

CENTER REHAVIA, 2.5, quiet, sunny, charming, vacant August, recently renovated. Tel (02) 563-3794.

COTTAGE IN JERUSALEM $590,000
7 rooms, 350 sq.m. built, 270 sq.m. garden, 3-room basement for office or clinic, swimming pool, two parking spaces
Tel. 02-586-0862

EAST TALPIOT! CLOSE to Promenade, 4 + dinette, ground floor, private entrance, gardens, yards. Exclusive to Shiran through MORIAH REALTY. Tel. 02-671-6866.

EFRAT, 5, 141 sq.m., garden, option for expansion, availability flexible. Tel. 02-993-2884.

FOR SALE: REHAVIA
Outstanding 5-room apt., 181 sq. m., recent building, luxury finish, elevator, parking.
Shiran / Lasky, 02-623-5595.

GERMAN COLONY, SUPERB modern penthouse, 5.5, sunny terraces, parking CORRINNE DAVAR. Tel. 02-673-3385.

GERMAN COLONY, 4 rooms, central, 1st floor, balconies, for renovation and investment, $348,000. SHIRAN exclusive through ANGLO SAXON. Tel. 02-625-1161.

PENTHOUSE, GERMAN COLONY, 5, unique, elevator, parking, immediate (no commissions). DIVIROLLI-SIANI. Tel. 02-561-2424.

GERMAN COLONY, LARGE, unique 2,3 or 4. Basement, garden, immediate (no commissions). DIVIROLLI SIANI. Tel. 02-561-2424.

GIVAT ORANIM, 4 + dinette, expanded, well invested, elevator, storeroom, parking. Tel. 02-561-0333.

GIVAT ORANIM, 2.5 ROOMS, clean building, private heating, good condition. "HABITAT REAL ESTATE" exclusive. Dafna, Tel. 02-561-1222.

GIVAT SHARETT: COTTAGE, 7 garden, American kitchen, air conditioning, carpeted bedrooms. Tel. 02-999-0178.

GIVAT ZEEV, VILLA, well maintained, 5 bedrooms, + basement, high quality. Tel. (02) 536-3066.

HABITAT REAL ESTATE, Bayit Vegan,5 rooms, terrace, parking, luxurious, views. Michael. Tel. 02-561-1222.

HABITAT REAL ESTATE, Nachlaot, 2 beautiful rooms, 4155,000. San Simon, 3 rooms renovated, $205,000. Old Katamon, 4 rooms, Arab style, $245,000. Channa, Tel. 02-561-1222.

HABITAT REAL ESTATE, Ramat Eshkol, 4.5 rooms, bright, quiet, $220,000. East Talpiot, 5 rooms, attractively renovated. $230,000. Ehud. Tel. 02-561-1222.

HABITAT REAL ESTATE - KIRYAT Moshe, 4 rooms spacious, $250,000. Rehavia, 2.5 rooms, charming, $260,000. Bayit Vegan, 3 rooms, ground floor, garden, access. Dafna. Tel. 02-561-1222.

IN THE HEART of quiet Baka, 4 rooms, 1st floor, balcony, excellent. Exclusive to IDAN. MALDAN. Tel. 02-673-4834.

JERUSALEM, NACHLAOT AREA, brand new modern house, 3 floors, 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, 120 sq.m. Many extras, quiet area, great views from balcony, garden. Move in today! Must see, a steal at $380, 000, Tel. 052-800-111.

JEWISH QUARTER, CLOSE to Kotel, separate house, air conditioning, about 230 sq.m., $650,000. Details through ORIGINAL REALTORS. Tel. 02-623-6252.

KATAMON, 1.5, GROUND floor, compact, renovated, quiet, immediate, no realtors. Tel. 02-678-0670.

KIRYAT SHMUEL (HATAYASSIM), 3.5, excellent spacious, ground floor, balconies, garden. Exclusive, ALEX LOSKY REAL ESTATE, 19 King David St. Tel. 02-623-5595.

MA'ALEH ADUMIM, 3, + dining area central, quiet location, improved, service balcony, 3rd floor, Tel. (02) 535-3501(NS).

MODI'IN , FOR RELIGIOUS, apartments, 3,4,5 rooms + possibility for garden. MISHAB. Tel. 02-625-4181.

MODI'IN, FOR RELIGIOUS, cottages, 5, 6 rooms. MISHAB. Tel. 03-516-4531, 02-625-4181.

NAHLAOT: BEAUTIFUL PRIVATE house, 4, new, high, standard. T.A.C. Tel. 02-563-1764.

NEAR JERUSALEM THEATER, 3.5 large, luxurious, quiet, view, elevator, no agents. Tel. 052-830602, 02-566-9588.

NEAR PRESIDENT'S RESIDENCE, small exclusive quiet building, 4 + top floor attic. Keys with Ambassador. Tel. 02-561-8101.

OLD TALPIOT, 4 , 1ST floor, green, quiet, balconies, storageroom, parking. ALES LOSKY REAL ESTATE, 19 King George St. Tel. 02-623-5595.

RAMAT BEIT HAKEREM, 5 rooms, beautiful, storeroom, view, parking. Tel. (02) 679-0988, 050-317881.

RAMAT ESHKOL, 3 rooms, 85 m., flexible entry, opportunity. AM -GAR, Tel. 02-581-6833 (MALDAN).

RAMAT MOTZA, LUXURIOUS villa, all modern conveniences, private land, Tel. 02-534-6360 (eve.)

RAMOT GIMMEL, 5-ROOMED cottage, extension possible. Tel. (02) 586-5606, 050-303172.

RAMOT, MOGENTHAU, TERRACED, 5, 2 balconies., storage. Tel. 586-7880 (H), 02-672-1017 (W).

REHAVIA (ABARBANEL), LUXURIOUS apartment, 5 rooms, spacious. Broker. Tel. 02-567-0086.

REHAVIA! 4, 1ST FLOOR, spacious, dinette, balconies, Succah, storeroom, view. Kiryat Shmuel! 4, dinette, balconies, elevator, view. BEN ZVI. Tel. 02-563-0066.

REHAVIA! 4.5, OFFICE/RESIDENTIAL/ INVESTMENT. Ground floor, 2 entrances, $289,000. BETTER BAYIT. Tel. 02-563-9345.

REHAVIA, 5, (150 SQ. M.), first floor, quiet green streets, for renovation. ALEX LOSKY REAL ESTATE, 19 King David St. Tel. 02-623-5595.

REHAVIA: LUXURY, STYLISH,5-6 rooms, recent building, 181 sq.m., 2nd floor, elevator, quiet, secluded balconies, storage room, parking, Shiran exclusive through ALEX LOSKY REAL ESTATE. Tel. 02-623-5595.

ROMEMA, LIKE VILLA, Arab, renovated, + building permission, huge garden, wonderful view. Tel. (02) 537–1758.

SAN SIMON, PENTHOUSE, 5.5 rooms, elevator, large terrace with view (Succah), storeroom as studio. AMBASSADOR. Tel. 02-561-8101.

SLOPES OF BAYIT Vegan, cottage and 4 room apartments, with panoramic view, large terraces and gardens, parking, storage. Exclusive to Ambassador. Tel. 02-561-8101.

SLOPES OF MEVASSERET, cottage, 6 rooms with large garden. tel. 02-625-4181.

TALBIEH, LUXURIOUS 200 sq. m., entire floor, prestigious building. MONTEFIORE REALTY, Tel. 02-625-2071. CORRINE DAVAR, Tel. 02-673-3385.

TALBIEH, VERY LARGE, 3 room apartment with lots of charm, $400,000. Call EVA AVIAD REALTY. Tel. 02-561-8404, 052-601-944.

TALPIOT, 4 ROOMS, spacious, bright, first floor, parking. "HABITAT REAL ESTATE" exclusive. Shuli., Tel. 02-561-1222.

TZAMERET-HABIRA, SPACIOUS, 5 + sunny southern terrace and view, Shiran exclusive through YE'ELIM REALTY. Tel. 02-532-1159 (Maldan).

YEMIN MOSHE, QUIET, 2, Arab style, key money, $115,000. Exclusive CORRINNE DAVAR. Tel. 02-673-3385.

WHERE TO STAY

BEN YEHUDA HOSTEL, central location, beds $8, rooms $35, Tel. 02-624-8021.

DWELLINGS
Tel Aviv

HOLIDAY RENTALS

BEAUTIFUL HOLIDAY APARTMENTS tourists / businessmen, short / long term. DYNAMI. Tel. 03-546-8003, Fax. 03-546-9667.

QUALITY TOURIST APARTMENT short term, two rooms, furnished, Dizengoff + Reiness / central, low rates. FRIENDS INTERNATIONAL. Tel. 03-510-5342, Fax. 03-516-3276.

SEA VIEW! FULLY fully equipped, renovated apartments. Short/long terms. Tel. (03) 546-6920. Fax (03) 605-5322.

RENTALS

LUXURIOUS APARTMENT, FULLY furnished. Short/long term. Tel. 03-605-5704, fax. 03-605-0075.

OLD KATAMON, QUIET, 3 1/2, large, solar heating, ground floor, immediate. Tel. 02-622-1283.

TOURISTS/BUSINESSMEN: BEAUTIFUL RENOVATED suites/apartments, short/long term. Rental/Sale. Penthouse: Tel. 03-5285037; Fax: 03-5285901.

ATTRACTIVE 3-ROOMED FURNISHED renovated, airconditioning, center Tel Aviv, $1,100, Tel. (09)-950-7011, (09)-950-6035.

BEAUTIFUL APARTMENTS / STUDIO-2 rooms, Ben Gurion Blvd., tourists / businessmen, short/long term. Tel. 03-696-9092, 050-358972.

BEN YEHUDA, STUDIO apartment and 2 room apartment, fully furnished. Short/long term. Tel. 052-683-063 (NS).

BEST APARTMENTS, Best locations, best prices. Short/long term. Tel. 03-5238180.

FULLY FURNISHED, 2 bedrooms, large living room, airconditioning, parking. Ben Gurion Blvd. Tel Aviv. Tel. 052-496324.

10 ROOMS, GAN HA'IR, immediate, new kitchen, air conditioner, 2 parking places, $2,500. Tel. 03-648-3417, (from Sunday).

SEA VIEW, LUXURIOUSLY equipped! Duplex + roof-balcony. 1 & 2 bedroom apartments. Studios. Short/long rentals. Tel. 03-546-6920, Fax 03-605-5322.

SEAFRONT, 4 ROOMS, brand new apartment, direct access. Short / long term, furnished. Tel. 050-616-775.

SHIKUN DAN, BEAUTIFUL new cottage, 6 + large basement, air-conditioned. YAEL REALTOR (Maldan). Tel. 03-642-6253.

STANDARD + LUXURY APARTMENTS, short & long leases full country club facilities. Tel. (03) 699-0848/9.

SALES

COTTAGE, KIRYAT ONO, new, high standard, 300 / 260 + basement, parking. tel. 03-535-1443.

GIVAT HAPRAHIM, QUIET, luxurious, 5, newish + balcony, possibly furnished. YAEL REALTOR. (Maldan). Tel. 03-642-6253.

JAFFA, EXCELLENT LOCATION, 2 adjoining apartments, need rebuilding, total 490 sq.m. PAZ REALTY. Tel. (03) 752-1514, 052-526527.

JAFFA, ROOF APARTMENT, authentic, terrific, seaview. 160 m., balconies, $550,000. PAZ-NEHASIM. Tel. 03-752-1514, 052-526-527.

FOR SALE LUXURY OCEAN VIEW APARTMENTS
1-2 BEDROOMS in the Opera Tower
Tel. 03-549-8498, 052-536687

NEOT AFEKA B, most beautiful building. Tel. 03-649-8546, 052-391105.

OPPORTUNITY! PENTHOUSE, 240 SQ.M., center Ramat Gan, 16th floor, elevators, splendid view, parking facilities. Tel. 03-560-9665.

PENTHOUSE, RAMAT AVIV, After Street, view, 230 sq. m. $550,000. TEL-EDIUR. Tel. 03-642-1588.

TEL AVIV, 2 APARTMENTS, each 3 rooms, excellent location, bright, quiet. Tel. 03-691-2405, 03-546-9643.

DWELLINGS
Sharon Area

FLATMATES

WANTED EDUCATED YOUNG lady to share flat, or as companion. Must speak English & like animals. Write to: BB504719, Jerusalem Post, POB 81, Jerusalem 91000.

RENTALS

CAESAREA, LUXURY 3 room apartment, furnished, pool, short/long term. Tel. 02-534-4239.

FOR RENT, HERZLIYA PITUAH, modern, young villa, 5.5 + garden, parking, long term. ANGLO SAXON. Tel. 09-958-2256.

HERZLIYA PITUAH, 1-BEDROOM flat, fully equipped, Villa, 3 bedrooms. Short/long terms. Tel. (03) 546-6920, fax (03) 605-5322.

HERZLIYA PITUAH, KFAR Shmaryahu, beautiful new villa + pool. CONNECTIONS. Tel. 09-955-0190.

HERZLIYA PITUAH, CHOICE of villas for rent, the best location. SHASHUA. Tel. 09-957-0878 (Maldan).

HERZLIYA PITUAH, TO rent cottage in residence, swimming pool, tennis, $2500. "HORA", MALDAN. Tel. 09-957-0484.

HERZLIYA-PITUAH, MODERN HOUSE, 4 bedrooms, study, good location. $2200. OREN DUNSKY. Tel. 09-957-3096.

NETANYA - NITZA, OVER sea - luxury, unfurnished, 4 rooms long term. Tel. 09-834-0715.

NITZA 3, SPACIOUS, facing sea, 3rd floor, elevator, for rent, unfurnished, Tel. (08) 943-8492 (w). 050-574269.

ZICHRON YAACOV, 4, brand-new furnished house + garden, seaview. From April 1 - 6 months or less. Tel. 06-629-0068.

SALES/RENTALS

SHULI GARTY REAL ESTATE

4 room, new kitchen	$650
4½ garden apt. fully a/c	$920
3 rm, luxurious, fully a/c. central	$800
5 room + roof (Schwartz St.)	$780
5 garden/duplex, a/c, cupboards	$1,200
5 + roof, cupboards, a/c, central	$1,000
Special offer!! Penthouse 4½	$385,000
Garden Apts, best location.	Fr$320,000
4 + lift, special price, quiet loc.	$230,000
5 + balcony, NEW!! Central.	Fr$275,000
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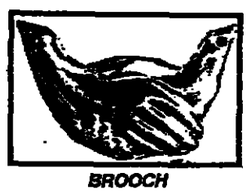
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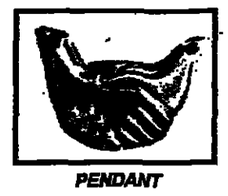
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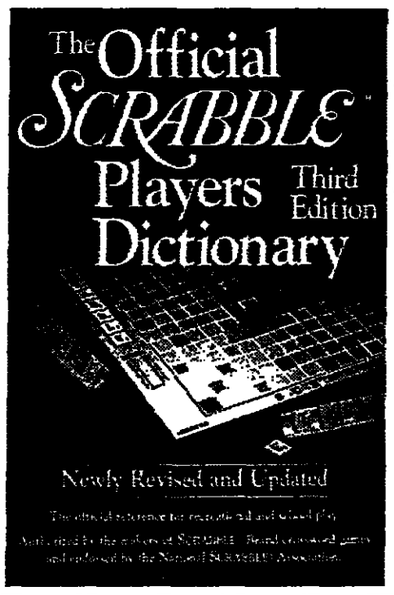

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Presidents' choice

Marlene Post, (left), president of Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc., poses with her predecessors (left to right) Bernice Tannenbaum, Ruth Popkin, Roz Matzkin, Debbie Kaplan and Charlotte Jacobson, at Beth Hatefusoth in Ramat Aviv yesterday as part of the group's current Midwinter Conference. (Avi Hayoun).

ROAD

Continued from Page 10

include widening the coastal strip from Rosh Ha'ayin in the south to Netanya in the north, only 12 kilometers from the old 1967 border. The Palestinians would have access to cities along the Green Line such as Kalkilya and Tulkarm via corridors similar to what the Israelis used before the Six Day War. Other corridors would extend from the Palestinian rump in the territories to other border areas such as Beit Jala, just outside Jerusalem, and Jenin, near Mount Gilboa.

For their part, the Israelis would establish enclaves of settlements and IDF locations around Judea and Samaria, the Jordan Valley included. Isolated Jewish communities that could not be included in an enclave would be connected to the rest of Israel by a corridor that would adjoin Palestinian territory.

"The map would look like a series of interlaced fingers," one government source says.

The Gaza Strip would involve a different approach. Here, government sources sound vague and appear ready to make most of their territorial concessions to the Palestinians.

IN AN interview on Channel 1 on Wednesday, Netanyahu listed his goals in final-status talks. They are that Jerusalem remain under Israeli sovereignty; Israel maintains Jewish settlements as well as security zones; and that any Palestinian entity will be incapable of threatening Israel. Sources close to Netanyahu say the government will abide by two principles in conducting negotiations with the Palestinians. One is that the prime minister will not renounce the Oslo accords despite his belief that the process endangers Israel. But progress in the negotiations will be linked to Palestinian compliance to the accords, particularly in the areas of amending the Palestinian covenant, extradition of terrorist suspects to Israel, cooperation in the fight against terrorism and an end to hostile propaganda.

The second principle is that Israel must be ready to set limits to its concessions and stick by them. Even those close to Netanyahu acknowledge that the prime minister has not abided by this during the negotiations on the Hebron accord, particularly in the deadlines for the further redeployments.

The aim of these guidelines is to dismiss the view that the Oslo process is what the US terms a "slippery slope," whereby Israel continues to slide uncontrollably down the path of concessions regardless of whether the accords with the Palestinians result in peace. Foreign Minister David Levy suggests that his government's approach must be understood by the international community, which he regards as having been far too impatient with the pace of the talks. "Who will want to come to a place where in every argument, somebody yells 'Hamas'?" Levy said on Wednesday to foreign ambassadors based in Israel. "And when I say Hamas, I mean the organization. There must be an awareness that nothing will be resolved through violence."

As Israeli policymakers see it, the final status of the territories will involve long and painstaking talks to resolve, in a piecemeal fashion, the question of borders and the powers of a Palestinian entity. The process will go way beyond the May 1999 deadline for the completion of final-status talks. The optimists say it could take decades. In the meantime, Israeli officials want to achieve a peace treaty with Syria that will remove the Arab military threat from the northern border and ensure normalization for the lion's share of the Middle East.

"We must be ready to say no to the Palestinians and understand that if we say no and stick to it, the PLO has no option," a government source says. "Unlike the last government, we cannot panic. The PLO can launch terror and then we will eliminate them. The Arabs have no option for war, except limited war."

AMERICA

Continued from Page 10

American sponsorship was required for success. But it can also serve to demonstrate that US intervention sets the stage for new, previously unimagined, demands and complexities.

Also, Israeli, Palestinian, and US leaders themselves may not be happy with the results of greater US intervention. From Netanyahu supporters' standpoint, without exception, every involved Clinton Administration official sees the peace process in terms similar to that of the Labor party. On the plus side for them, the specter of American pressure to make concessions rarely materializes. As long as it is engaged in mediating and asking Israel for concessions, the US is not going to enter a confrontation with the Netanyahu government. Instead though, US policy operates through flattery. If Netanyahu accedes, President Bill Clinton will write him nice notes, declare him a great statesman, and invite him to Washington.

Before Netanyahu – not to mention his harder-line coalition partners – realizes it, he is making concessions he never would have dreamed of giving otherwise.

Ironically, Arafat, the man most responsible for reintroducing a direct US role, also constantly accuses America of being biased toward Israel. At the end of the Hebron negotiations, he allowed King Hussein to be brought in to give him the fig-leaf of acceding to another go-between. But this was mere pretense.

Why would Arafat want to accept a mediator who he says favors his opponent? Of course, charging the US with anti-Palestinian bias has become another instrument for Arafat to seek more concessions. He hopes that the US will deliver Israel. But the Palestinian leader might find himself tied up into a package instead. An American mediator is less likely to quarrel with Netanyahu, press Israel too hard, or give Arafat everything he wants.

The US itself may regret having jumped back into the swamp of Israel-Palestinian negotiations. While the two sides asked them to do so, Clinton has not been reluctant to reenter the picture, rushing, unsuccessfully, to invite Netanyahu and Arafat for a Washington meeting at the time of the Hebron massacre and successfully after last September's rioting.

His intervention can be said to have preserved the peace process. But saving Israel and the Palestinians from facing the consequences of failure, and knowledge that they must work out an agreement themselves, are the factors really forcing them toward progress.

When both sides know they must resolve an issue – or pay the consequences – it gives them a tremendous incentive to make a deal. The best thing the US can do is to step back and let them deal directly with each other again.

Without doubt, US mediation played a critical role in completing the Hebron agreement. But perhaps, unintentionally, it also made the situation harder to resolve.

DENIES

Continued from Page 1

didate for attorney-general, to take on the position, but he refused because he was Deri's attorney and Deri had not released him from his commitment. The Avi-Yitzhak appointment did not go through because he refused, and not because of any blackmail on Deri's part," Hanegbi argued.

Hanegbi promised yesterday that the name of the government's new candidate for attorney-general would be made public this Sunday. He challenged Channel 1 to make public or turn over to the police details of its assertion that Bar-On had been appointed attorney-general as part of a plea bargain conspiracy with Deri.

Bar-On resigned his appointment after three days in the face of scathing press and opposition onslaughts. Channel 1 claimed last night that his appointment had been suggested by Likud activist David Appel to Deri, who made a deal with Bar-On to plead guilty to a misdemeanor in order to pave his way back to the cabinet. Deri reportedly recorded Bar-On's promise on tape and then made Bar-On's appointment a condition for Shas remaining in the coalition and supporting the Hebron agreement.

"This is so serious that it cannot be treated as just another unproven and unprovable press allegation," said Hanegbi. "If reporter Ayala Hasson is so confident of her story, then as a good citizen she must turn over whatever evidence she possesses to the authorities. She should hand in all the information to the police or make it public. Personally I know all this is unequivocally baseless."

He added that "up until the very end of the process Bar-On was not even the leading candidate for the office of attorney-general and was hardly in a position to engage in such extortionist conspiracies."

Bar-On demanded yesterday to be left alone. "I am a private citizen once more and do not crave or deserve press attention," he announced. "All this conspiracy talk is trash and wicked nonsense. I could not have made Deri any promises and he could have recorded none, because I had not seen him for years and even that was a very cursory acquaintance."

Deri is considering suing Hasson and ITV for slander, he said.

"The television has really gone insane this time," Appel said. "This is so utterly absurd, so far-fetched, and so unfounded that words just fail me. All I can say is that it is a rank lie and that I find myself in the position of the proverbial fellow whose sister is said to be a prostitute, regardless of his loud protests that he doesn't even have a sister. I shudder to think what they can invent next. The citizens of this country are defenseless against such concoctions. It's frightening."

OPPOSITION

Continued from Page 1

concoction intended to appoint an attorney-general whose job would be to let defendants off the hook in exchange for their political support in the coalition. This is a Sicilian culture incompatible with a state of law and it must be investigated."

Merom said he will see to it that the Knesset also debates the issue, "because if anyone concocted a brew intending to take over the Attorney-General's Office and subject it to political decisions, they must be investigated."

Meretz leader MK Yossi Sarid said that if the report is substantiated, "then it seems they were not looking for an attorney-general but for someone willing to act as a concillieri, and we know who uses concillieris and where."

Sarid, who filed a complaint to Police Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz and urged Arbel to investigate the affair, said that in an affair of such gravity, the denials of the persons involved are not enough, and their actions must be examined.

Israel Radio's legal commentator Moshe Negbi said if the report is true, "then this is the worst case of criminal corruption the state of Israel has ever known, which overshadows not only the Bus 300 Affair but even the Watergate affair. It's an attempt of apparently criminal elements to take over the top of the justice system."

SWISS

Continued from Page 1

Holocaust memorial fund much larger than 100 million Swiss francs.

The fund is part of Berne's efforts to calm criticism that the neutral country cynically exploited the war, including claims Swiss banks hoarded accounts left by Holocaust victims and that the central bank bought looted Nazi gold.

KABARITI

Continued from Page 1

Hussein blamed Netanyahu for an "arrogance of power."

Rifai has said that Jordan could anticipate a visit by Netanyahu to Jordan, but did not believe it would occur before the end of Ramadan on February 9.

At the same time, Israeli and Jordanian officials could exchange views in advance of Netanyahu's visit to Washington next month.

In his letter, Kabariti praised the Israeli and Palestinians leaders for reaching a Hebron deal, and hoped peace would gain as a result.

"We salute the leadership of Israel and the Palestinian people for their courage and fortitude in overcoming the numerous obstacles which delayed signing the agreement," it read.

BLIND

Continued from Page 1

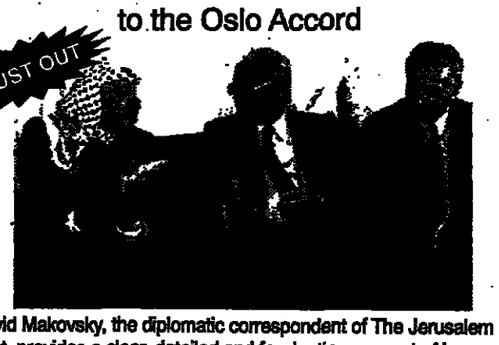
of Music in Boston.

The center, which encourages blind people to find and develop their individual talents, is funded almost entirely through private contributions and donations. It only had enough money for insurance cover against accidents, but not equipment.

"Since the story appeared in *The Jerusalem Post* we have received calls from people from all over the country offering to help," said Lillian Cohen, who is in charge of program development at the center.

MAKING PEACE WITH THE PLO

The Rabin Government's Road to the Oslo Accord

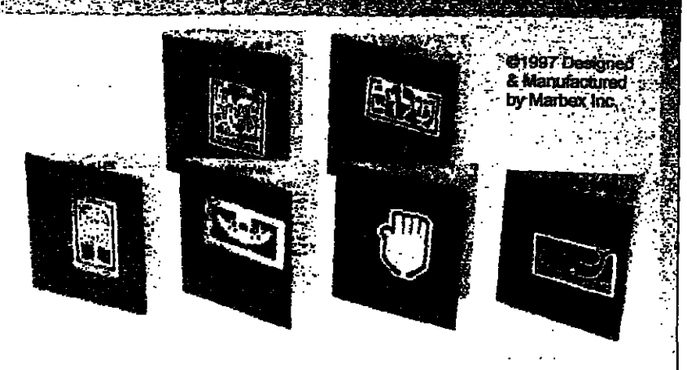


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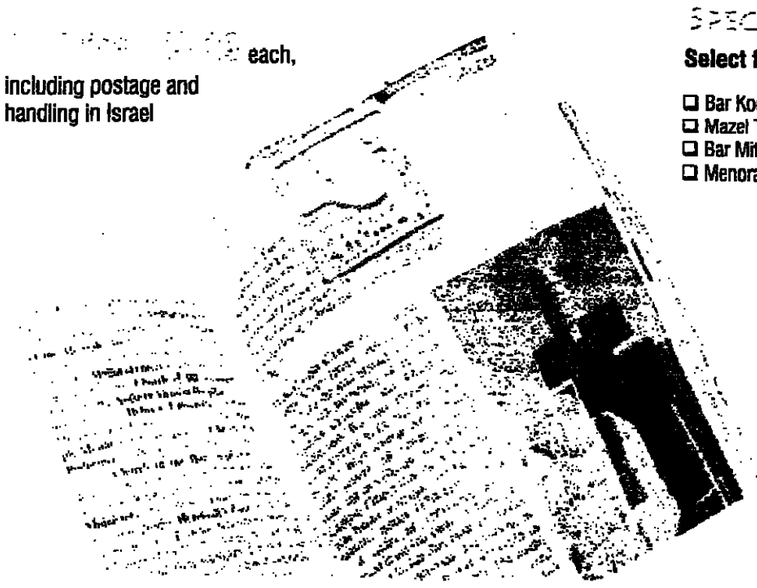
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هذا من الاصل

No place like home for Olympiakos

Maccabi Tel Aviv stumbles to 69-60 loss to Greek champs

By BRIAN FREEMAN

Maccabi Tel Aviv wasted an excellent opportunity to win only its second game in Greece this decade, losing to Olympiakos 69-60 to fall into fifth place in the Euro League's Group E last night.

The Israelis held as much as a seven-point lead with only three seconds remaining in the first half before shooting only 32 percent after the break and committing too many costly errors to contain the Greeks.

Foreign star David Rivers and veteran Panagiotios Fassoulas led the comeback for Olympiakos, which improved its mark to 7-6, the same as Maccabi's.

CSKA Moscow, 72-67 winners over hosts Charleroi, is also at 7-6, but Maccabi has already lost its two games to the Russians and thus sits in fifth place, with only three games remaining in the pool. Only the top four teams from each group advance to the Final 16.

Olympiakos, which won its sixth consecutive European game on its own court and upped its record to 35-6 there over the last four-plus seasons, exploited the home advantage to the hilt by informing the Israelis that tip-off would be delayed 15 minutes only after Maccabi had already run through its pre-game warm-ups

The Israelis got off to a sluggish start, falling behind 8-4 five minutes into the game before all engines kicked into gear.

The team then proceeded to display some of its finest basketball of the season at both ends of the court, going on a 29-19 run for the next 15 minutes.

The entire starting lineup played an excellent team defense, blocking shots, forcing turnovers and closing off the lane, all while staying out of foul trouble.

Maccabi also held Rivers to only four points during that span, thanks in large part to Zvi Sherf's decision to start Derrick Sharp with the specific task of containing the speedy point guard.

On offense, the Israelis demonstrated a patience and intelligence that resulted in 56% shooting and few mental errors.

Nadav Henefeld, who had eight points and three assists at the break, and Randy White, who collected nine points and pulled down five rebounds during the half were particularly impressive.

However, events turned on Maccabi at the start of the second half, as the officials called a flurry of fouls on the Israelis that suddenly put both Henefeld and White in trouble.

When White collected his fourth foul and went to the bench with 13:47 remaining in the game, Maccabi still held a 39-37 advantage.

But his replacement, Constantine Popa, was no match for the big Greek men inside. Not only could he not rebound effectively, but he failed to score a basket, committed a needless foul and then turned the ball over that led to an Olympiakos basket which gave them the lead for good at 44-43 with 11 minutes left in the game.

Maccabi had a golden opportunity to get back into the contest with 4:20 left when Doron Sheffer, an 83% free-throw shooter entering the contest, went to the line with Maccabi down 60-57.

However, he proceeded to miss both his shots and the Greeks went on to increase the margin.

Rivers, who did not have Sharp guarding him for the first seven minutes of the second half after Sherf elected not to start him after the break, was the major factor, tenaciously penetrating Maccabi's defense to score and dish off assists.

For Maccabi, Oded Katash had 14 points, Sheffer 13, White 11, Buck Johnson and Henefeld 8, Borko Radulovic 5 and Popa 1.

For Olympiakos, Rivers had 20 points, Georgijas Sigalis and Demetrios Papanikolaou 10, and Fassoulas 9.

The championships takes a break next week before resuming with Maccabi hosting Alba Berlin, Olympiakos traveling to CSKA Moscow and Stefanel Milan hosting Charleroi.

Group E

	W	L	Pts
Stefanel Milan	9	3	21
Alba Berlin	8	4	20
Olympiakos	7	6	20
CSKA Moscow	7	6	20
Maccabi Tel Aviv	7	6	20
Charleroi	0	13	13

Hingis heads to history, Chang heads home

MELBOURNE (Reuter) – Martina Hingis headed towards history at the Australian Open yesterday as world No. 2 Michael Chang saw his title hopes crushed by an unseeded Spaniard.

Hingis, 16, aiming to become the youngest grand slam champion in modern tennis, looked almost invincible as she ousted veteran American Mary Joe Fernandez in the semifinals.

Her opponent in tomorrow's women's final will be France's Mary Pierce, who was at her fired-up best against South African Amanda Coetzer in the other semifinal.

But the day's biggest upset belonged to Spain's Carlos Moya, who took his achievements to new heights by defeating second seed Chang. Moya, world ranked 25, eliminated defending champion Boris Becker in the first round.

"Today I did something big, I played in an unbelievable way," said Moya after his 7-5 6-2 6-4 win.

Chang has not won a grand slam title since lifting the French Open as a 17-year-old in 1989, but has played the most consistent tennis of any major name in Melbourne.

Moya, a languid Spanish baseliner, seemed unimpressed by Chang's reputation, quickly establishing his dominance on the baseline and coming forward as Chang's shots fell short.

"I knew before the match that I had to take risks to beat him, if you stay on the baseline against him you lose," said Moya, who has won just four two titles, both on clay.

Chang made a third set challenge, building up a 3-1 and 40-15 lead on his serve, but Moya managed to step up his game and prevent the match dragging out into a fourth set.

World No. 4 Hingis was even more impressive as she thrashed 14th seed Fernandez.

At 16 years, three months and 26 days on the day of the final, She could become the youngest grand slam champion since amateur Lottie Dod won the first of her five Wimbledons in 1887 at the age of 15 years and 10 months.

"I just played an unbelievable match," said Hingis after her 6-1 6-3 victory. "I wasn't nervous at all and I played very good tennis."

Hingis had promised to play an up-front, aggressive game against the 14th seed, but she hardly needed to. She hovered around the baseline slamming perfectly-judged passing shots and dictating the pace of the match for all but a brief period.

Fernandez, who broke Hingis's serve once in the first set without holding her own, saved two match points at 5-1 in the second as Hingis angrily questioned a line-call.

Serving for the match at 5-2, Hingis distractedly allowed herself to be broken again.

Fernandez continued to grow in confidence but Hingis stepped up a gear, breaking her opponent's serve with a fierce forehand pass across court to wrap up victory in 69 minutes.

Hingis's next opponent – some would say victim – will be 1995 champion Pierce, who beat 12th seed Coetzer 7-5, 6-1 and said she was hungry to repeat her triumph of two years ago.

"Last year in Paris if someone had told me that I would be here now, I wouldn't have believed them," said Pierce, who took three months off the game last year to overcome a prolonged slump in form and a shoulder injury.

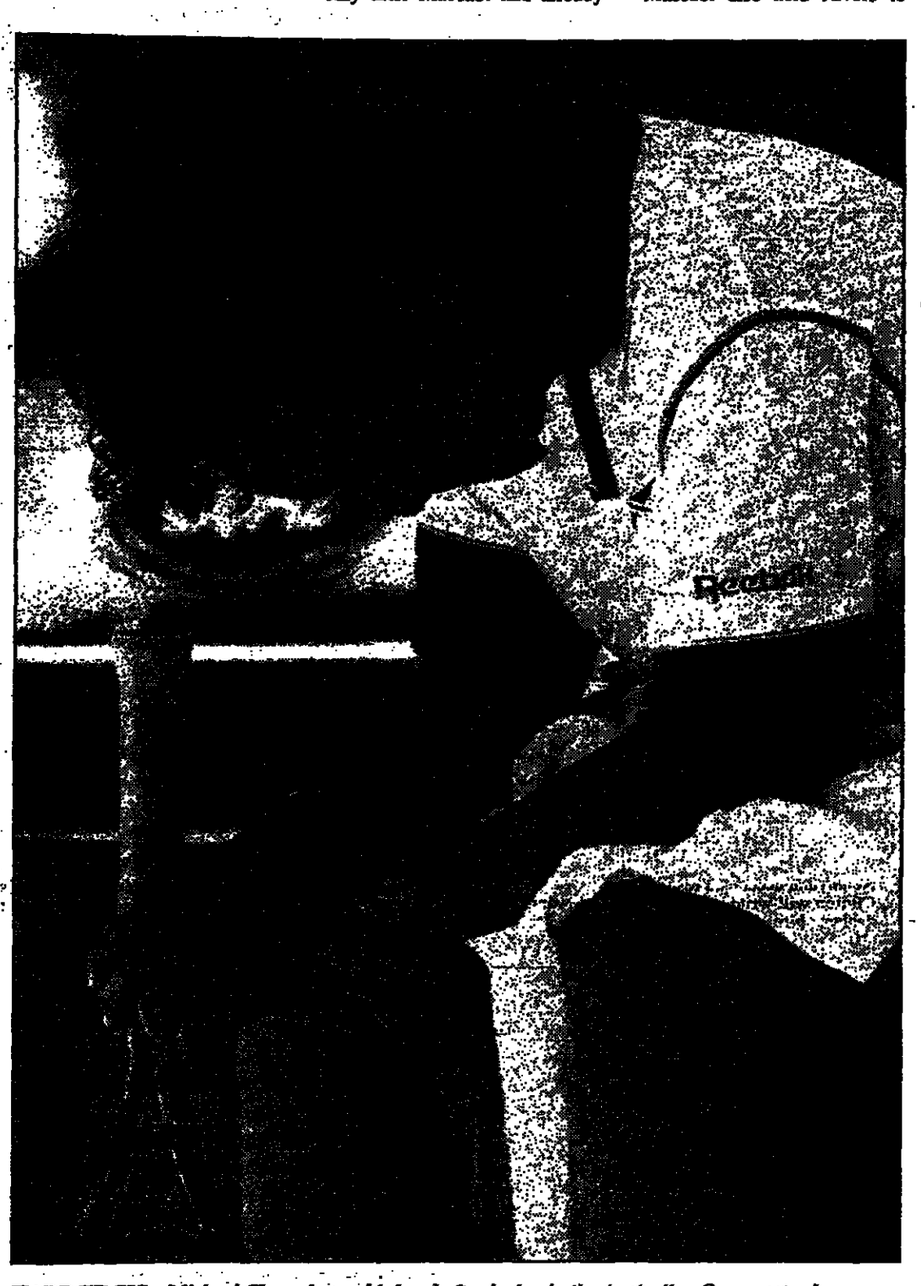
"I was going through hard times."

Pierce served and passed the ball deep into Coetzer's court to build up a 5-1 first set lead, but saw Coetzer break her next two service games to even the score.

The South African beat world No. 1 Steffi Graf in the fourth round and Pierce's fans in the crowd began to fear that her fragile confidence would once again let her down.

But Pierce held her nerve and serve in the next game before breaking Coetzer with a cracking forehand pass to win the set.

The second men's semifinal, between world No. 1 Pete Sampras and Austrian fifth seed Thomas Muster, will be played today. The men's final is on Sunday.



HARD TIMES – Michael Chang hangs his head after losing in the Australian Open yesterday. (Reuter)

State Cup ties could spring surprises

By DEREK FATTAL

After a two-week layoff, its back to action for the clubs that make up the National League. However, this weekend all 16 members of the top flight will be facing unfamiliar opposition in the eighth round of the State Cup. This is the first round of the knock-out competition involving National League clubs, and a seeding system has been adopted to ensure that they are all matched against teams from the lower divisions.

As is invariably the case at least one of big boys is likely to meet its come-uppance at the hands of a minnow. With the weekend's Toto prize standing at a tempting NIS 10 million, the punters who can successfully predict what fate has in store will literally be laughing all the way to the bank.

There will be no replays as all matches will go to extra time and penalties to ensure a final result.

The most intriguing fixture of all pits fifth division Maccabi Ma'aleh Adummim against the team at the bottom of the National League, Hapoel Taiba. This symbolic clash between representatives from the Arab sector and the settlement bloc has all the makings of a classic cup encounter.

Ma'aleh Adummim wanted to play the match at their home ground but following consultations with the police the game is being played at Teddy Stadium tomorrow, which should make life easier for the Taibeans. Nevertheless, Maccabi club chairman Arnon Aaronsen was in buoyant mood before the media yesterday and confidently stated that his side should make it through to the next round.

Ironi Rishon Lezion looks to be one of the most susceptible National sides as it faces Division Two leaders Hapoel Ashkelon away from home this afternoon. The going could also get tough for Maccabi Petah Tikva which hosts the young gifted outfit that has been developed at Maccabi Netanya which currently lies second in the Second Division.

Moshe Sinai ended yesterday's training session at Hapoel Tel Aviv 15 minutes ahead of schedule, and sharply berated his players for failing to take their preparations for tomorrow's visit to Ironi Ashdod seriously. The match is Sinai's farewell game as coach with the trouble-stricken reds, and marks the end of an era for the man who became a legend as a player with the club in its better days.

Hapoel Haifa will take to the field at the Gaon Stadium this afternoon without Tal Banin against Maccabi Jaffa, and will have to keep an eagle eye on Jaffa's Avivi Zohar who has been in hot form in front of goal recently.

For those starry-eyed fans who savor the romance of the Cup, check out the fixture between as-yet-unbeaten National League leader Betar Jerusalem and Third Division Hapoel Yehud for what will be the shock of the season if Yehud can pull off a victory.

Other surprising upheavals could occur in the fixtures between Hapoel Jerusalem and Hapoel Hod Hasharon, and in Maccabi Herzliya's match against Hapoel Bnei Sakhnin.

Weekend Soccer Fixtures

State Cup eighth round: Ironi Ashdod v. Hapoel Tel Aviv, Ashdod, tomorrow 2 pm; Maccabi Tel Aviv v. Hapoel Bat Yam, National Stadium Ramat Gan, tomorrow, 3 pm; Hapoel Yehud v. Betar Jerusalem, Bloomfield, tomorrow, 2 pm; Hapoel Jerusalem v. Hapoel Hod Hasharon, Teddy Stadium, today 2 pm; Maccabi Jaffa v. Hapoel Haifa, Gaon Stadium, today 2 pm; Bnei Yehuda v. Maccabi Kiryat Gat, Matikva Quarter, tomorrow 2pm; Maccabi Ma'aleh Adumim v. Hapoel Taiba, Teddy Stadium, Teddy Stadium, tomorrow, 2 pm; Hapoel Petah Tikva v. Hapoel Upper Nazareth, Petah Tikva, tomorrow 2 pm; Betar Tel Aviv v. Hapoel Kfar Saba, Gaon Stadium, tomorrow 2 pm; Maccabi Haifa v. Hapoel Kiryat Shmona, Kiryat Eliezer, tomorrow, 2:30 pm; Hapoel Ashkelon v. Ironi Rishon Lezion, Ashkelon, today 2 pm; Maccabi Herzliya v. Hapoel Bnei Sakhnin; Maccabi Acre v. Zafririm Holon, Acre, today 2 pm; Maccabi Petah Tikva v. Maccabi Netanya, Petah Tikva today, 2 pm; Hapoel Ramat Hasharon v. Hapoel Beersheba, Ramat Hasharon, today, 2 pm; Hapoel Beit She'an v. Ness Ziona, Beit She'an, today 2 pm.

South Africa takes the initiative

BLOEMFONTEIN, South Africa (AP) – Gary Kirsten and Daryll Cullinan combined for a 111-run partnership that helped South Africa reach 270 runs for four wickets in its day-night cricket international yesterday against India.

The score, a run rate of 5.4 over the allotted 50 overs, left India with a daunting challenge in its innings later yesterday in the first contest of a tri-nation series that also includes Zimbabwe.

Kirsten keyed the South African run-making, scoring 73 and combining with Cullinan for 111 runs that steadied the innings.

South Africa innings

A. Hudson c Tendulkar b Prasad	15
G. Kirsten c Singh b Prasad	73
L. Klusener run out Srinath	15
D. Cullinan c Jadeja b Kumble	51
J. Rhodes not out	57
H. Cronje not out	44
Extras	15

Total (for 4 wickets) .....270 – 50 overs
Fall of wickets: 1/36 2/54 3/165 4/168
Bowling: Srinath 10-0-60-0 (5w), Prasad 10-1-63-2 (1nb), Ankola 10-0-45-0 (1nb), Kumble 9-0-44-1, Singh 8-0-40-0, Jadeja 3-0-22-0.

Jackson warns Rodman to watch his step

CHICAGO (AP) – Dennis Rodman sounds unrepentant, but his next foul-up could earn him the heave-ho, Chicago Bulls coach Phil Jackson warns.

Rodman, a rebounding star with a history of erratic behavior, is three games into an 11-game suspension for kicking a cameraman January 15 in Minneapolis.

Appearing on ABC television's *Primetime Live* Wednesday night, he said the kick was only a "tap."

"I apologized," said Rodman, who has agreed to pay cameraman Eugene Amos $200,000. "But most people in the world would say he's acting.

"It would have been more of a headache to drag this out like an O.J. trial," the Bulls forward said.

Jackson, in an excerpt aired by Chicago's WLS-TV news but not included in the show, said Rodman "has four fouls and two strikes against him."

"I don't think he has any more strikes," Jackson said.

Neither the bizarre Rodman nor the patient Jackson had publicly commented on the kicking incident before the ABC interviews.

In an interview taped Tuesday night in Newport Beach, California, Rodman criticized NBA commissioner David Stern for requiring him to undergo counseling and then explain why he should be reinstated.

"Don't treat me like a kid. I'm not a kid and you're not my father," he said.

76ers snap 13-game losing streak

BOSTON (Reuter) – The Philadelphia 76ers snapped a 13-game losing streak with a 127-125 victory over the Boston Celtics Wednesday as rookie Allen Iverson scored 26 points, including three free throws in the final 30 seconds.

"It was just good to get this win and take some pressure off," Iverson said. "Honestly, I've liked the effort from my teammates. I wasn't frustrated. Hopefully we can build on this."

Jerry Stackhouse scored a season-high 38 points and Rex Walters had career highs of 27 points and nine rebounds and a season-high 11 assists for the 76ers, who avoided the longest losing streak in the NBA this season. The Suns lost their first 13 games.

Stackhouse and the Sixers got some advice from all-time great Julius Erving, who was at The FleetCenter.

"Dr. J was telling me personally to let the game come to me," said Stackhouse. "I think that rubbed off a lot on the other guys."

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS:
Philadelphia 127, Boston 125*
Sacramento 97, Detroit 92
New Jersey 103, San Antonio 95
Denver 94, Vancouver 84
Utah 111, Phoenix 99
Seattle 98, Portland 97
***-in overtime**

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	29	11	.725	–
New York	28	12	.700	1
Washington	20	20	.500	9
Orlando	17	19	.472	10
New Jersey	11	27	.290	17
Boston	9	28	.243	18½
Philadelphia	9	31	.225	20
Central Division				
Chicago	35	5	.875	–
Detroit	28	11	.718	6½
Atlanta	26	12	.684	8
Charlotte	23	17	.575	12
Cleveland	22	17	.564	12½
Indiana	19	19	.500	15
Milwaukee	19	20	.487	15½
Toronto	14	25	.359	20½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	31	10	.756	–
Utah	28	13	.683	3
Minnesota	18	22	.450	12½
Dallas	13	25	.342	16½
Denver	12	29	.286	19
San Antonio	10	28	.263	19½
Vancouver	8	34	.190	23½
Pacific Division				
Seattle	30	11	.732	–
L.A. Lakers	29	12	.707	1
Portland	23	18	.561	7
Sacramento	17	24	.415	13
Golden State	16	23	.410	13
L.A. Clippers	14	24	.368	14½
Phoenix	15	26	.366	15

NHL SCOREBOARD

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Philadelphia	27	13	7	61	152	116
N.Y. Rangers	24	19	7	55	170	139
Florida	22	14	10	54	131	110
New Jersey	23	17	5	51	118	114
Washington	20	22	5	45	127	128
Tampa Bay	18	21	6	42	131	141
N.Y. Islanders	14	23	9	37	125	138
Northeast Division						
Pittsburgh	26	15	5	57	171	138
Buffalo	25	17	5	55	139	123
Hartford	19	20	7	45	133	146
Montreal	18	22	8	44	154	164
Boston	17	23	6	40	135	165
Ottawa	14	22	8	36	120	132

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Dallas	25	17	4	54	133	114
Detroit	21	16	9	51	140	107
St. Louis	21	22	4	46	137	151
Phoenix	19	23	4	42	125	150
Chicago	17	24	8	42	126	133
Toronto	18	29	0	36	144	165
Pacific Division						
Colorado	28	11	8	64	180	108
Edmonton	21	22	5	47	154	148
Vancouver	22	21	2	46	147	150
Anaheim	18	22	5	41	128	135
San Jose	17	23	5	39	120	143
Calgary	17	25	5	39	117	140
Los Angeles	17	25	5	39	127	160

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS:
Hartford 2, Florida 1*
Buffalo 6, Montreal 1
Boston 4, Ottawa 1
N.Y. Islanders 8, Edmonton 1
N.Y. Rangers 5, Washington 3
Toronto 5, Calgary 3
Philadelphia 2, Detroit 2*
Vancouver 4, Chicago 3*
San Jose 7, Los Angeles 2
Anaheim 3, New Jersey 1
***-in overtime**

Shmerkin places 14th at European championships

By HEATHER CHAIT

Misha Shmerkin finished his appearance in the European Figure Skating Championships yesterday in Strasbourg, France in 14th place.

In yesterday's free program, Shmerkin fell twice and was left in 15th position. In Wednesday's technical program Shmerkin had finished in 12th place but his free program brought him down to 14th place overall.

The ice dance pair of Galit Chait and Sergei Sakhnovsky, in contrast, improved their 16th placing to an overall 15 by taking 14th position in the original dance program yesterday.



Superbowl on cable TV

Superbowl XXXI, between the New England Patriots and the Green Bay Packers, will be broadcast live on Channel 5, with pre-game coverage beginning at 11:30 p.m. Sunday, and Prime Sports, starting at 1 a.m. Monday. (photo: Reuter)

Storm continues over 'Emigrants Law'

By LIAT COLLINS

The day after it passed preliminary reading in the Knesset, the bill by MK Ruby Rivlin (Likud) which would allow all Israelis with a valid passport to vote abroad in general elections here continued to raise a storm of objections yesterday.

The bill – which has been nicknamed "The Emigrants' Law" – is being criticized by its opponents as "anti-Zionist" and encouraging emigration although its supporters say it will strengthen ties between Israel and citizens abroad. They note it would also be used by tourists and students and that it is similar to the situation elsewhere including the US, UK, Germany and Scandinavian countries. Rivlin estimates that if the bill passes final reading in its current form, some 350,000 emigrants will be able to vote.

Yisrael Ba'aliya faction chairman Roman Bronfman said yesterday he would raise his own private members bill next week which would grant Israelis the right to vote abroad only during the first year of their stay. It would also allow tourists and temporary emissaries the right to vote overseas.

"It's not easy to separate between visitors and permanent residents abroad but it's important that only those who will bear the results will be able to vote," Bronfman said.

Deputy Education Minister Moshe Peled (Tsomet) said he voted in favor of Rivlin's bill Wednesday by accident and had not realized what he was voting on. Tsomet leader Rafael Eitan, however, "enthusiastically supports the bill because it's one of the ways to keep the contact between Israelis abroad and the country." He said it could be one of the factors that could ultimately persuade them to return. Eitan, a former chief of general staff, organized a network of reserve officers in the US who did annual service here and later came back permanently.

"You can't take their right to vote away from them. All the bleeding hearts who object to this bill don't object to asking for donations and money from the same Israelis abroad," he said. Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Foreign Minister David Levy voted in favor of the bill Wednesday and helped it pass, 22 to 17.

The National Religious Party is split over the bill. The faction is scheduled to discuss it Monday. Faction Chairman Hanan Porat, MK Avraham Stern and NRP director Zvulun Orlev oppose it. The bill is being prepared for further readings in the Knesset Law Committee chaired by NRP MK Shaul Yahalom, who is also opposed. NRP MKs Shmaryahu Ben-Tsur and Zvi Hendel support the bill.

All Third Way MKs oppose the bill.

Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon "is vehemently opposed to the bill. Only those who take part in life here and contribute to it should be allowed to vote to decide who will lead it."

MK Yossi Beilin, a candidate for the Labor party leadership, said: "The cynicism of the ostensibly nationalist camp has reached new heights with a proposal which will allow former Israelis who abandoned us to send our children to the next war."

ANALYSIS

Voting bill will never pass

By SARAH HONIG

Opponents of the bill to allow Israelis abroad to participate in elections here need not be overly anxious. The chances of such a bill ever being enacted are more than slim. This is the the near-consensus of both Left and Right, even if many of the ostensible boosters or the vociferous knockers of Likud MK Reuven Rivlin's initiative will not own up to it for the record. It would spoil a good issue.

The fact that the bill was passed on preliminary reading was a chance occurrence and there are many non-starter precedents that met their swift demise in subsequent Knesset votes. A small number of MKs were present in the plenum, and had just a handful of the Labor members hanging around in the halls or the dining room bothered to take part in the vote (which was on the agenda), the bill would not have survived.

The fact that it was supported by the Right, initially at least (as well as by the prime minister and foreign minister), has little to do with Rivilin's unsubstantiated assertion that most of the Israelis abroad lean rightward politically. No one can prove this and anyone who has seen the hosts of kibbutzniks in the greater Los Angeles area will make no rash assumptions. Moreover, the realization that the consequences of the vote will mean no skin off the noses of anyone residing out there could just as easily turn hawks into doves as vice versa.

Rivlin's logic is quite different. Even if we take as axiomatic the idea that Israelis who live permanently abroad are divided along the same proportions as the rest of the Jewish population in Israel, their votes could conceivably help the Right, because they would decrease the proportion of Arab voters and thus also decrease their influence on the outcome.

The Zionist logic lies in not letting anti-Zionists decide the fate and future of the Zionist state. Among the Jewish voters in the recent election, it should be recalled, Netanyahu had a nearly 12 percent majority over Peres, a broad margin which was narrowed by the Arab vote.

But this in itself will not buoy the bill. It has never been so much as discussed in any Likud forum and can hardly be considered Likud policy. This will make it difficult to even assure the support of all Likud members. Already Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon and hawkish Likudnik Ze'ev Boim have come out against it, as has Deputy Education Minister Moshe Peled of the Tsomet faction.

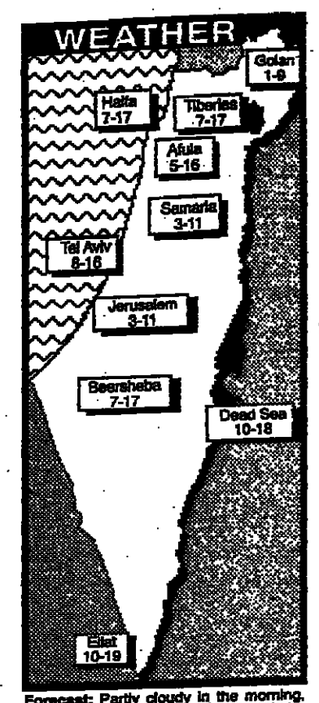
The picture is similar in the rest of the coalition parties. The NRP and Yisrael Ba'aliya are divided and the Third Way is opposed. This in itself makes it unlikely the bill has a viable chance.

Were it to somehow nevertheless survive another reading, it would be either watered down uprecognizably or felled by the legal ramifications. Setting up balloting stations overseas, as Rivlin suggests, may be a mammoth undertaking in itself. But this would pale in comparison to the problems of who would be entitled to vote.

Labor would probably happily underwrite the notion that tourists, students, and certain emissaries be enfranchised. The party complained in past elections that it lost merely because polling day coincided with the summer tourist season, when it assumed that most of the better-off Israelis out to see the world were left-wingers.

But the fact that an Israeli passport is one of the easiest to obtain would give rise to plenty of questions. Will immigrants who stayed here only briefly before seeking greener pastures be considered eligible to vote? Will Jews who deliberately obtain a passport for the express purpose of casting a ballot be eligible? Will expatriates who have been away for decades?

The betting is that if the bill at all lives to see its final reading, it will be a much amended version with which the political mainstream can live. Netanyahu himself is said to hope for a modified version that will erase injustices which he says he had experienced himself when a student temporarily abroad. Despite the fact that he returned for reserve duty, he still could not vote.



Forecast: Partly cloudy in the morning, local rain in center and south of the country.
Shabbat: Partly cloudy to clear, gradual rise in temperatures.

AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW C	LOW F	HIGH C	HIGH F	
Amsterdam	04	39	08	46	cloudy
Berlin	00	32	07	45	cloudy
Buenos Aires	22	72	33	91	clear
Cairo	08	48	14	57	clear
Chicago	-06	21	08	46	pcloudy
Copenhagen	-02	28	01	34	cloudy
Frankfurt	01	34	04	39	rain
Geneva	03	37	05	41	rain
Helsinki	-00	32	02	36	snow
Hong Kong	15	59	18	64	rain
Jerberg	15	59	22	72	cloudy
Lisbon	08	46	14	57	cloudy
London	06	43	08	46	clear
Los Angeles	12	54	14	57	rain
Madrid	06	43	13	55	cloudy
Montreal	-06	21	06	43	clear
Moscow	00	32	01	34	clear
New York	08	46	09	48	cloudy
Paris	06	43	11	52	pcloudy
Rome	06	43	18	64	clear
Stockholm	-03	27	02	36	snow
Sydney	13	66	27	81	pcloudy



Finding themselves

High school seniors check their bearings yesterday as part of an IDF pre-induction map-reading exercise. (Isaac Harari)

Netanyahu reviews candidates for science portfolio

By SARAH HONIG

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu gave an audience to three would-be ministers yesterday, but left them all in limbo. He had spoken previously with a forth candidate.

All four want to succeed Ze'ev Binyamin Begin as science minister.

Begin resigned in protest over the cabinet approval of the Hebron agreement. MKs Silvan Shalom, Michael Eitan and Shaul Amor are all interested in picking up his portfolio, as is former MK and Ariel Mayor Ron Nahman. All four say or intimate that they were promised a ministerial appointment or claim they deserve one.

Yesterday Netanyahu heard out Shalom, Amor and Nahman. A day earlier he met with Eitan.

Likud sources believe that of the four Shalom is the front-runner. He was an early supporter of Netanyahu's bid to win the Likud leadership, along with Tzahi Hanegbi and Limor Livnat.

However, Nahman too has been at Netanyahu's side for a long time.

Eitan claimed he was promised a portfolio if one became available and has begun a campaign that has ired many in the Likud. A site was even opened on the Internet in which he was already referred to as science and technology minister.

Amor, who was angry when he didn't win the Knesset Speaker nomination and then frustrated when he wasn't named Likud candidate for president, now warns that the Likud would be in trouble if he is not appointed.

Sources close to Netanyahu say that Shalom would perhaps be the lesser of evils, but none of the four is fully satisfactory. They would like to see someone like Prof. Yuval Ne'eman or his equivalent in stature appointed. The argument is that Netanyahu came to power with the promise of excellence and not appointments based on horse-trading or political quid pro quo.

The sources say that Netanyahu promised none of the candidates anything.

Burg receives death threat

By BATSHEVA TSUR and news agencies

Jewish Agency Chairman Avraham Burg, one of the leaders in the Jewish campaign to restore looted Holocaust assets, has received a threat to his life from Switzerland.

"Dead Soon," says a handwritten warning alongside an article in French sent January 13 from Lausanne. The headline, from an unidentified publication, reads: "Jewish Agency President Does Nothing to Calm the Climate. Avraham Burg confirms his refusal to meet Swiss representatives until Delamuraz retracts his statement."

The article refers to the Jewish organizations' demands earlier this month that the outgoing Swiss president apologize for terming "blackmail" requests that Jewish assets in Swiss banks be returned.

A message typed onto the article sent to Jewish Agency headquarters in Jerusalem added, in French: "Don't ever come to Switzerland or the area or you are a dead man. We are tired of hearing idiots like you. Switzerland doesn't need that kind of preaching."

A photograph of Burg in the article is crossed out and dark blotches black out his eyes.

Next Thursday, Burg is due to attend the meeting in Zurich of the Volcker Committee looking into the missing Jewish bank accounts in Switzerland. Security is expected to be stepped up in view of the threat.

He said that he had also had comments on his home telephone but that this was the first threat from "an international front. It is not pleasant."

Meanwhile, a senior Swiss politician appealed yesterday to the Swiss public to show understanding for Jewish groups leading the campaign against Switzerland for its wartime activities.

Finance Minister Kaspar Villiger, himself under fire for his family's actions under the Nazi regime, said the barrage of accusations that Switzerland profited from the war was hard to accept.

"I know that many Swiss react angrily to sweeping judgments and ask themselves whether truth and justice are the sole motives. Even I have often felt spurts of adrenalin in the blood," he said at a meeting.

"But perhaps we should show understanding when the descendants of those who suffered so unspeakably, react particularly sensitively today."

Villiger conceded that looking back on an unpleasant past was painful but he said the country should do it honestly and self-critically.

Switzerland was going through bad times, he said. The economy had been stagnant for six years, unemployment was rising and questions over unclaimed assets of Holocaust victims remaining in Swiss banks had ballooned to a problem of huge implications at home and abroad.

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